

THE UNIVERSITY
OF ILLINOIS
LIBRARY

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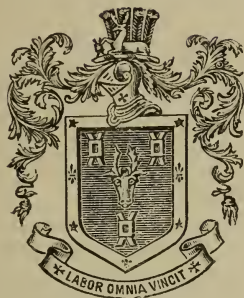
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LIBRARY
ELECTRONIC



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COUNTY BOROUGH OF WEST BROMWICH.



Thirty-second Report
OF THE
Free Library Committee

PRESENTED TO THE TOWN COUNCIL,
NOVEMBER, 1906.

WEST BROMWICH:
PRINTED BY GREGORY & TOMKINS, TOWER PRINTING WORKS,
CARTERS GREEN.

AREA, 5,860 ACRES.
 POPULATION IN 1901, 65,172.
 HOUSES, 14,366.
 RATEABLE VALUE, £225,640.

Chronological History.

- 1870 Public Libraries Act unanimously adopted, 30th November.
- 1873 Mr. P. D. Bennett appointed first Chairman, 7th January.
- 1874 D. Dickinson appointed Librarian, 13th February.
- 1874 Central Newsroom opened, 31st August.
- 1875 First Edition of Lending Library Catalogue Published, 10th February.
- 1875 Lending Library opened, 15th February.
- 1875 Reference Library opened, 15th March.
- 1876 Second Edition of Lending Library Catalogue Published, 18th March.
- 1876 Henry Williams, Esq., appointed Chairman, 21st June.
- 1878 Reference Library Catalogue Published, 23rd May.
- 1880 Third Edition of Lending Library Catalogue Published, 1st June.
- 1882 Mr. C. H. Bayley, Hon. Secretary, died in November.
- 1882 Librarian appointed Secretary.
- 1883 Branch Reading Room opened, Spon Lane, 1st January.
- 1883 " " " Hill Top, 15th January.
- 1883 " " " Greets Green, 17th January.
- 1884 Subscription Library formed and opened, 1st January.
- 1887 Fourth Edition of Lending Library Catalogue Published. December.
- 1891 Mr. J. Manley appointed Chairman, 18th November.
- 1892 Branch Reading Room at Great Bridge transferred to Farley Park, Greets Green, 1st August.
- 1894 Lending Library extended by two Shops in Market Hall in September.
- 1895 Permission granted to the Science and Art Masters to borrow books from the Reference Library for the use of Students at the Institute, 18th December; cancelled, July, 1902.
- 1897 Extension of Central Reading Room into Market Hall in September.
- 1898 Branch Reading Room at Hill Top transferred to the Park at Hill Top in July.
- 1898 Juvenile Catalogue Published, at one penny, in March.
- 1898 Fiction " " threepence, 13th July.
- 1898 Music " " one penny, in November.
- 1900 Death of Mr. D. Dickinson, 8th March.
- 1900 Mr. Guildford O. Hodges appointed Librarian, 6th April.
- 1901 Installation of Electric Light. 24th May.
- 1902 Councillor H. L. Browne appointed Chairman, 12th February.
- 1902 Fifth Edition of Lending Library Catalogue Published, April
- 1903 Spon Lane Reading Room transferred to Kenrick Park in September.
- 1905 Dr. Andrew Carnegie offers £7,500 for a new Library, 24th June.
- 1905 Dr. Andrew Carnegie's offer accepted by Town Council, 5th July.
- 1906 Foundation Stone of New Free Library laid, April 27th, by Councillor H. Langley Browne, M.D.

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(9 pts)

Committee :

COUNCILLOR H. L. BROWNE, M.D., LL.D., CHAIRMAN.

REV. J. W. JONES, M.A., DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN.

ALDERMAN J. H. BLADES, J.P.

COUNCILLOR J. E. WILSON (MAYOR).

COUNCILLOR A. G. TURLEY.

MR. J. BUTLER

MR. A. CADDICK (Town Clerk)

MR. W. FREETH

MR. J. GRIFFITHS

DR. H. MANLEY, M.A., M.D.

REV. T. PARR, M.A.

REV. E. A. VOYSEY, M.A.

MR. W. S. WATTS

MR. W. WITHINGTON

Librarian and Secretary :

GUILDFORD O. HODGES.

Assistants :

JOSEPH WOODHALL.

JAMES H. WALL.

Branches :

No. 1—KENRICK PARK : T. KENNETT.

No. 2—HILL TOP : J. WHITEHOUSE.

No. 3—GREET'S GREEN : H. JONES.

Book-Buying Committee :

COUNCILLOR H. L. BROWNE, M.D.

COUNCILLOR J. E. WILSON (MAYOR).

MR. A. CADDICK

REV. J. W. JONES, M.A.

REV. T. PARR, M.A.

REV. E. A. VOYSEY, M.A.

THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

OF THE

West Bromwich Free Library.

*To the Worshipful the Mayor and Corporation of the Borough of
West Bromwich.*

GENTLEMEN,

The Free Library Committee, in presenting their Thirty-second Annual Report, are pleased to be able to again record that the work of the year shows an advance.

By the withdrawal of many old obsolete books, the replacement of old editions with modern editions, and the continual purchasing of modern books covering all phases of literature, much has been done to thoroughly modernise our Library, which the Committee hope will prove helpful to, and be appreciated by, all who use the Library.

Since March, 1900, no less than 3,512 volumes have been withdrawn from circulation, being out of date and not required; 2,387 volumes, being old editions, have been replaced with modern editions; and 2,818 new additional books provided. These figures will give some idea of the Committee's efforts to provide an up-to-date Library. Of the new books, 60 per cent. are books containing useful and valuable information, as History, Biography, Travels, Education, Law, Art, Science, Poetry, Drama, Music, Cyclopædias, Dictionaries, &c., the remainder being books of romance, juvenile and miscellaneous literature. The Committee now hope that the public will take full advantage by borrowing and using these books which have been provided for home reading and study.

Since the issue of the last report, plans for the New Carnegie Library, prepared by Mr. Stephen J. Holliday (1st Prize Winner in open competition), have been accepted. In January the tender of Mr. Thomas Hardy (Builder) was approved by the Council, and building operations commenced immediately afterwards. On April 27th the Foundation Stone of the new building was laid by the Chairman of the Committee (Councillor H. Langley Browne), His Worship the Mayor (Councillor J. E. Wilson, J.P.,) presiding. The building is now nearing completion, and it will soon be ready for opening, an event which is being looked forward to with very much interest by all, and especially by those who use the present inadequate building.

Resignation.—The Rev. E. A. Voysey has resigned his position on the Committee, and Councillor Halford has been recommended to fill the vacancy.

LENDING DEPARTMENT.

Stock.—During the year there has been added to this department, by purchase, 143 volumes; by presentation, 31; by transfer from Subscription Library, 175; total, 349.

Stock-taking.—The Libraries were closed for the usual Annual Stock-taking on July 2nd, and re-opened on July 16th. During the year, out of an issue of 67,942 volumes, no loss whatever has occurred.

Issues.—67,942 volumes have been issued to 67,847 borrowers, giving a daily average of 284 volumes.

Since 1899-1900 the daily average issues have been slowly increasing, and the past year gives a further increase, the daily average being the highest recorded since 1879.

Borrowers' Cards.—During the year new cards have been issued to 1,261 borrowers. The actual number of cards in use on the 30th September, 1906, was 2,456.

It is a significant fact that for the last year in the present building the daily average of borrowers using the Library is the highest recorded, except for the first two years—1874-75.

Receipts.—The fines for the detention of books beyond the allotted time, together with sale of catalogues, papers, etc., realised £58 10s., giving a slight increase on the previous year's figures.

Wear and Tear of Books.—326 volumes have been worn out and re-placed, 387 have been re-bound, and several hundreds have been repaired by Library staff.

This department now consists of 11,315 volumes.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

The Reference Department still maintains its valuable character. Amongst the most recent additions to this department are the following:—Moliere's Dramatic Works, 6 vols.; Art of the World, 2 vols.; Bryan's Dictionary of Painters and Engravers, 5 vols.; Cambridge Modern History, 5 vols.; Stereoscopic Views (with Guide Books) of Tours through Egypt, Italy, and Palestine; Schillings With Flash-light and Rifle, 2 vols.; Law without Lawyers, 1 vol.; History of Modern England, Vol. IV.; Vol. IV. of "Times" History of Boer War; World's History, volumes as published; Women Painters of the World; Redmayn's Colliery Working, 15s.; Longman's Gazetteer of the World, 21s.; Bartholomew's Gazetteer of the British Isles, 21s.; Bond's Gothic Architecture, 31s. 6d.; Reeve's Shells, 31s.; Tercy's Mechanical Equipment of Collieries, 10s.; Paine's Famous Composers and their Works, 30s.; several books of Local History; French, Latin, and German Dictionaries; the Henry Irving Edition of Shakespeare, Annotated, 8 volumes, coloured illustrations, £4 15s.; Thompson's Dynamo Electric Engineering, £3; Donkin's Gas, Air, and Oil Engines, 25s.; Davey's Pumping Machinery, 21s.; Hughes' Text Book of Coal Mining, 24s.; and many others; but this is a selection which will go to show the reformation work that is in hand by the Committee.

Consultations.—2,294 volumes have been consulted, against 2,180 volumes the previous year. The number of readers, however, which, as a measure of the work done in the Reference Library, is a better guide than the number of volumes consulted, shows in Table VI, page 18, that since 1900 more readers have used our Reference

Library in six years than previously from 1874 to 1900—26 years—a fact which should prove that students are appreciating the work of the Committee in providing useful and thoroughly up-to-date works on all subjects.

No record is kept of the hundreds of references made to books in the Open Public Shelves in the Central Reading Room.

Additions to Stock.—During the year 94 volumes were added to this department—by purchase, 63 ; by gift, 27 ; by transfer from Subscription Library, 4.

This department now consists of 3,568 volumes.

READING ROOMS.

The Central Reading Room, also the Branch Reading Rooms at Kenrick Park, Hill Top, and Greets Green, continue to be well used and appreciated, particularly the books placed in each to which the public have free access.

ATTENDANCES.

There have been eighteen meetings of the Committee, the attendance of the members being as follows:—

The Mayor, Councillor J. E. Wilson...	...	13
Alderman J. H. Blades, J.P. ...	...	5
Councillor H. Langley Browne (Chairman) ...	...	15
Councillor A. G. Turley ...	...	9
Mr. J. Butler ...	...	13
Mr. A. Caddick (Town Clerk) ...	...	3
Mr. W. Freeth ...	...	17
Mr. J. Griffiths ...	...	10
Rev. J. W. Jones (Deputy-Chairman) ...	...	15
Dr. Herbert Manley ...	...	6
Rev. T. Parr ...	...	17
Rev. E. A. Voysey ...	...	11
Mr. W. S. Watts...	...	9
Mr. W. Withington ...	...	13

Signed on behalf of the Free Library Committee,

H. LANGLEY BROWNE, Chairman.

GUILDFORD O. HODGES, Librarian.

READING ROOM.

Open from 9 a.m. to 9-30 p.m.

The average daily attendance of readers is estimated at 1,100.

The following Newspapers and Magazines are regularly supplied:—

Those marked with an Asterisk () are presented.*

DAILY.

Birmingham—Evening Despatch	London—Telegraph
„ Gazette (2 copies)	„ Times
„ Mail (3 copies)	Manchester Guardian
„ Post (2 copies)	Yorkshire Post
Liverpool Mercury	Wolverhampton—Evening Ex-
London—Chronicle	press and Star
„ Daily Mail	Daily Graphic
„ Daily News	Daily Mirror
„ Standard	

WEEKLY.

*Alliance News	Illustrated London News
Architect	*Investors' Guardian
Athenæum	*Iron and Coal Trades' Review
Birmingham Weekly Post	Lady
*Blackpool Herald	Lady's Pictorial
*Board of Trade Journal	*Laundry Journal
Builder	*Local Government Chronicle
Building News	*Local Government Journal
*Canadian Gazette	*Midland Advertiser
Chums	*Midland Counties Herald
*Civil Service Aspirant	Mining Journal
*„ „ Competitor	*Patents (Illustrated Official
*Colliery Guardian	Journal)
*Contract Journal	*Phonetic Journal
*Drapers' Record	Photography
*Electrical Engineer	Punch
Electrical Review	*Present Truth
Engineer	Queen
Engineering	*School Government Chronicle
English Mechanic	*Smethwick Telephone
Era	*Social Gazette
*Evesham Journal	Spectator
Exchange and Mart	Sphere
Focus	Sporting and Dramatic News
Gardening	Staffordshire Advertiser
Gentlewoman	Truth
Graphic	*Warwickshire Advertiser
*Grocers' Review	*West Bromwich Chronicle
	(2 copies)

WEEKLY—(*continued*).

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| *West Bromwich Weekly News
(2 copies) | *Wednesbury Herald |
| *West Bromwich Free Press
(2 editions) | *Wolverhampton Chronicle |
| | *Worcester Herald
Work |

MONTHLY.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Army List | Macmillan's Magazine |
| Art Journal | *Machinery Market & Supplement |
| Band of Hope | *Musical Herald |
| Blackwood's Magazine | National Review |
| Bookseller | *New Church Magazine |
| British Workman | Nineteenth Century |
| Captain | *Positivist Review |
| Cassell's Magazine | Quiver |
| Chambers' Journal | <i>Railway Time Tables—</i> |
| *Child's Guardian | Bradshaw's Guide |
| Century Magazine (Scribner) | *Caledonian |
| *Clerk of Works | *Cook's Excursionist |
| Contemporary Review | *Great Eastern Continental |
| *County Council Record | *Great Northern |
| *Deceased Seaman | *Great Western |
| *Educational Times | *London & North-Western |
| *Emigration : Circulars for Canada,
Australasia, and South Africa. | *Midland |
| English Illustrated | *North Eastern |
| *Englishwoman's Review | *White and Pike |
| *Food and Cookery | *Rechabite Magazine |
| *Foresters' Review | Review of Reviews |
| Fornightly Review | St. Nicholas |
| *Free Russia | Strand Magazine |
| Girls' Own Paper | *Students' Journal |
| Good Words | *Travel |
| *G.W.R. Magazine | *University Correspondent |
| Harper's Magazine | *Vegetarian Messenger |
| *Herald of the Golden Age | *Vulcan |
| *Herald of Health | *White Ribbon |
| *Insurance Agents' Review | Windsor Magazine |
| *Labour Gazette | World and His Wife |
| Lady's World | *Young Journalist |
| Macfadden's Magazine | *Zoophilist |

QUARTERLY :—Hibbert Journal.

AS ISSUED.

*Emigration Handbooks :—Ontario, Tasmania, etc., etc.

TABLE I.

SHOWING STOCK IN LIBRARIES AND BRANCH READING ROOMS.

Lending Library.*Open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., except on Thursdays and Bank Holidays.*

In Stock previously	...	...	...	11091	
Withdrawn	...	...	...	61	
Worn out and out of print	...	...	...	62	
Volumes lost by replacement of Works in several volumes, by editions in one volume	...	...	...	2	
Total loss ascertained out of issue of 67,942 vols.				0	
					125
Added during the year:—					10966
By gift	...	...	...	31	
„ purchase	...	...	...	143	
„ transfer from Subscription Library	...	...	...	175	
					349
Total Stock in Lending Library					11315

Reference Library.

In Stock previously	...	...	...	3606	
Books transferred to Public Shelves	...	...	...	72	
Withdrawn	...	...	...	60	
					132
Added during the year:—					3474
By gift	...	...	...	27	
„ purchase	...	...	...	63	
„ transfer from Lending Library	...	...	...	0	
„ transfer from Subscription Library	...	...	...	4	
					94
Total Stock in Reference Library					3568

Branch Reading Rooms.

Kenrick Park	...	...	...	...	370
Hill Top	...	...	...	...	387
Greets Green	...	...	...	...	260
					1017

Total Stock.

Lending Library	...	...	...	...	11315
Reference Library	...	...	...	...	3568
Branch Reading Rooms	...	...	...	...	1017
Central Reading Room	...	...	...	...	480
					480
					16,380

TABLE II.

SHOWING THE NUMBER OF VOLUMES IN EACH CLASS IN REFERENCE
AND LENDING DEPARTMENTS.

Lending Library.

A	Theology and Philosophy...	...	692
B	History, Biography, and Travels	...	2883
C	Law, Politics, and Commerce	...	235
D	Science, Art, and Natural History	...	951
E	Poetry and the Drama	...	449
F	Magazines and Reviews	...	44
G	Fiction	...	4483
H	Miscellaneous Literature	...	710
J	Juvenile Literature	...	619
K	Music ...	...	249
<hr/>			
			11315

Reference Library.

A	Theology and Philosophy...	...	473
B	History, Biography, and Travels	...	878
C	Law, Politics, and Commerce	...	70
D	Science, Art, and Natural History	...	493
E	Miscellaneous Literature	...	1538
F	Poetry and Drama	...	116
<hr/>			
			3568
<hr/>			
			14,883
<hr/>			

TABLE III.

Classified Return of the Volumes borrowed from the Lending Library during the Twelve Months ending Sept. 30th, 1906.

DATE.	Days open.	Theology and Philosophy.	History, Biography, Law, Politics, and Commerce.	Science and Art.	Poetry and Drama.	Magazines and Reviews.	*Fiction.	Miscellaneous Literature.	*Juvenile Literature.	Music.	Totals.		Daily Average Volumes.	Daily Average Borrowers.
											Vols	Bor- rowers		
October ...	22	66	331	40	362	75	23	4203	116	882	174	6272	6262	284
November ...	21	77	313	61	325	80	30	3961	138	891	166	6042	6033	287
December ...	20	54	323	44	339	69	15	3901	145	834	182	5906	5900	295
January ...	23	64	318	57	333	64	21	4293	148	876	161	6335	6323	274
February ...	20	71	311	46	344	66	21	4060	175	838	171	6103	6098	304
March ...	22	74	349	71	406	87	21	4609	183	930	172	6902	6893	313
April ...	19	56	315	48	351	57	19	3956	160	865	175	6002	5990	315
May ...	22	69	375	43	413	50	23	4061	150	855	172	6211	6204	282
June ...	16	43	251	47	251	44	19	2827	108	558	116	4264	4259	266
July ...	12	32	161	29	195	30	22	1751	59	418	96	2793	2791	232
August ...	21	61	288	55	338	42	23	3476	146	694	154	5277	5266	250
September ...	21	66	306	65	354	59	17	3863	125	802	178	5835	5828	277
Totals ...	239	733	3641	606	4011	723	254	44961	1653	9443	1917	67942	67847	284

* Time allowed for reading works of Fiction and Juvenile Literature, 7 days; all other classes, 14 days.

Occupations of Borrowers admitted to Lending Department during the Year.

Agents, Collectors, and Travellers 14	Miscellaneous 44
Apprentices 4	Moulders 17
Architects and Surveyors... 6	Musicians... .. 5
Artist 1	No occupations 22
Assistants 30	Not stated... .. 42
Bakers and Confectioners 8	Nurses 10
Bookbinders 7	Office Boys 5
Bootmakers 3	Painters 10
Builders 6	Pattern-makers 7
Butchers 2	Polishers 3
Caretaker 1	Post Office Employés—
Carpenters and Joiners ... 29	Males 13
Cashiers 10	Females 3
Castors 3	Printers 9
Chemists 7	Railwaymen 7
Clerks and Book-keepers—	Scholars—Boys 94
Males 107	„ Girls 57
Females 20	School Teachers—Males ... 23
Doctors 3	„ „ Females 64
Drapers 7	Schoolmasters 11
Draughtsmen 5	Schoolmistresses 8
Dressmakers 9	Servants— Domestic ... 8
Engineers and Fitters ... 35	Shopkeepers 22
Glassworkers 9	Smiths 5
Hairdressers 5	Solicitors 3
Housekeepers 5	Students 22
Ironworkers 30	Tailors 12
Labourers 12	Turners 8
Managers 11	Typists 17
Manufacturer 1	Warehousemen 10
Mechanics... .. 7	Whitesmiths 2
Milliners 14	Wives and Daughters ... 281
Miners 2	
Ministers 4	
	1261

Ages of New Borrowers.

Under 14 160	50 to 55 10
14 to 20 371	55 to 60 14
20 to 25 213	60 and over 12
25 to 30 144	Not stated—Males ... 34
30 to 35 92	„ Females ... 78
35 to 40 73	
40 to 45 44	
45 to 50 16	
	Total 1261

REFERENCE LIBRARY.

TABLE IV.

CLASSIFIED RETURNS OF VOLUMES CONSULTED IN THE REFERENCE
LIBRARY,

During the Twelve Months ending 30th September, 1906.

DATE.	Days open.	Theology and Philosophy.	History, Biogra- phy and Travels.	Law, Politics and Commerce.	Science, Art and Natural History	Miscellaneous Literature.	Poetry and Drama.	Number of Con- sultations.	Number of Readers.
October	22	13	113	0	95	74	8	303	207
November	21	16	92	3	33	76	5	225	130
December	20	5	96	4	33	26	6	170	96
January	23	4	71	4	21	35	7	142	83
February	20	18	65	4	24	34	18	163	89
March	22	7	42	1	39	38	3	130	80
April	19	2	80	6	54	33	11	186	79
May	22	12	98	4	61	42	30	247	106
June	16	11	27	9	42	20	2	111	45
July	12	4	53	0	63	43	0	163	62
August	21	22	65	27	72	31	14	231	110
September	21	53	72	7	58	23	10	223	88
Totals	239	167	874	69	595	475	114	2294	1175

TABLE.	Days open.	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	K	TOTALS.		Aver. Vols.	Average of 100 vols.
												Volumes.	Borrowers.		
1st Report, 1874	76	1030	3523	94	1234	623	1822	18735	1479	2179		30724	24893	404	327
2nd " 1875-6	258	2423	7954	250	2874	1567	7244	61610	4190	6582		94694	73768	367	285
3rd " 1876-7	254	1830	6539	216	2326	1164	6242	54045	3455	5954		81801	64179	322	252
4th " 1877-8	256	1609	6083	193	2324	1144	6529	52208	2923	5557		78575	62358	306	243
5th " 1878-9	256	1664	5098	225	2082	1234	6919	48607	2836	6116		74781	62231	292	243
6th " 1879-80	252	1726	5199	115	1785	988	6354	48030	2815	6059		73071	60452	289	239
7th " 1880-1	210	1253	4306	153	2008	1030	4831	35944	2372	4722		66679	49633	269	236
8th " 1881-2	257	1289	5224	205	2385	1173	5923	41180	2901	6522		67002	60724	260	236
9th " 1882-3	253	1246	4763	171	2527	920	5107	35012	2384	4970		57146	53104	295	208
10th " 1883-4	132	465	2115	73	1038	422	2605	16301	872	2286		26237	24715	198	172
Rept.) Mar. 27 to Sep. 30 '83	256	1157	4187	114	2098	827	5045	32164	1934	4883		52409	49848	204	194
11th ") Oct. 1 '83 to Sep. 30 '84	229	1047	3862	141	2081	732	5010	28802	2037	5929	* 227	49868	48238	218	210
12th " 1884-5	227	1108	5240	245	2455	876	6023	39566	2412	9405	1004	68334	65738	262	236
13th " 1885-6	253	983	5067	160	2127	872	5636	39231	2268	8833	732	65909	63347	260	250
14th " 1886-7	224	561	3499	163	2032	628	4754	34796	2002	7687	674	62419	60117	244	235
15th " 1887-8	255	912	4271	115	1998	708	5555	38497	2002	7687	571	58235	56118	241	232
16th " 1888-9	224	519	2867	132	1836	586	3394	31497	1296	9020	551	52298	49637	232	221
17th " 1889-90	230	539	3174	124	1650	428	3703	33085	1202	8334	523	52762	50116	229	217
18th " 1890-1	235	447	2645	107	1531	514	3008	33203	1199	7943	713	51220	50270	217	213
19th " 1891-2	231	459	2317	167	1626	547	2763	32198	1198	7751	748	49764	47520	215	205
20th " 1892-3	228	441	2518	139	1735	645	2879	37773	1203	8403	846	56581	54273	248	238
21st " 1893-4	238	510	2786	143	1618	626	2905	40793	1229	8906	663	60125	58223	252	244
22nd " 1894-5	237	447	2322	108	1624	538	3117	40530	995	8722	492	58868	57634	229	223
23rd " 1895-6	241	400	2093	106	1469	335	3222	36949	1018	7461	627	53730	52443	223	216
24th " 1896-7	238	335	62024	657	1237	6284	62412	35218	6903	6000	666	49146	47682	207	200
25th " 1897-8	232	253	1342	45	957	162	1617	35392	667	4885	579	45899	45051	189	186
26th " 1898-9	232	150	1336	78	733	146	772	33163	505	4652	443	42034	41379	176	173
27th " 1899-1900	239	554	2758	267	2074	428	235	35080	1116	6194	970	49686	49094	209	206
28th " 1900-1	238	648	3278	519	2622	430	310	33286	1869	7038	1608	51608	51239	215	213
29th " 1901-2	240	772	3461	401	3510	517	295	38189	1820	7202	2012	58179	57879	241	240
30th " 1902-3	241	829	3637	490	4138	800	372	37134	1537	6919	2086	57992	57841	242	241
31st " 1903-4	240	768	3870	442	4244	712	311	42654	1472	9113	2145	65731	65644	274	273
32nd " 1904-5	239	733	3641	606	4011	723	254	44961	1653	9443	1917	67942	67847	284	284
33rd " 1905-6	239	733	3641	606	4011	723	254	44961	1653	9443	1917	67942	67847	284	284
TOTALS	7736	29160	125060	6582	70299	23379	117828	1245751	59150	225557	20703	1921449	1783271	248	230

* Borrowers can retain Musical Works two weeks.

° Since January, 1891, the time allowed for reading Theological and Philosophical Works has been extended from one to two weeks.

° Since January, 1894, the time allowed for reading Scientific Works has been extended from one to two weeks.

° Since November, 1897, the time allowed for reading books in all classes, EXCEPTING G AND J, has been extended to two weeks.

TABLE VI.

SHOWING THE NUMBER AND CLASSIFICATION OF VOLUMES CONSULTED IN THE
REFERENCE DEPARTMENTS SINCE OPENING.

TABLE.			Days open.	A	B	C	D	E	F	No. of Consult- ations.	No. of Readers.
1st	Report, 1874	...	56	68	113	3	108	88	...	380	...
2nd	" 1875-6	...	258	84	112	14	179	223	...	612	...
3rd	" 1876-7	...	254	59	240	1	291	364	...	955	419
4th	" 1877-8	...	256	69	395	20	276	379	...	1139	542
5th	" 1878-9	...	256	121	326	6	340	718	...	1511	566
6th	" 1879-80	...	252	215	308	3	332	881	...	1739	557
7th	" 1880-1	...	210	239	224	1	222	419	...	1105	392
8th	" 1881-2	...	257	315	243	9	230	389	...	1186	196
9th	" 1882-3	...	253	209	190	3	147	275	...	824	161
10th	) Mar. 27 to Sep. 30 '83 Rept.) Oct. 1 '83--Sep. 30 '84	...	132	82	104	3	108	172	...	469	...
		...	256	265	171	7	163	307	...	913	...
11th	" 1884-5	...	229	279	116	5	219	333	...	952	191
12th	" 1885-6	...	257	384	487	20	218	988	...	2097	242
13th	" 1886-7	...	253	299	341	21	311	781	...	1753	246
14th	" 1887-8	...	255	150	536	11	329	1617	...	2643	279
15th	" 1888-9	...	241	170	532	19	696	1142	...	2559	244
16th	" 1889-90	...	224	187	407	23	737	980	...	2334	162
17th	" 1890-1	...	230	42	423	21	853	619	...	1958	359
18th	" 1891-2	...	218	111	226	12	842	621	...	1812	128
19th	" 1892-3	...	231	91	163	4	443	586	...	1287	127
20th	" 1893-4	...	228	52	152	6	284	466	...	960	130
21st	" 1894-5	...	238	21	107	2	185	299	...	614	109
22nd	" 1895-6	...	257	101	64	0	178	192	...	535	88
23rd	" 1896-7	...	241	101	74	6	124	143	...	448	99
24th	" 1897-8	...	238	35	46	2	146	171	...	400	105
25th	" 1898-9	...	242	47	48	0	94	249	...	438	99
26th	" 1899-1900	...	239	15	108	13	164	196	...	496	190
27th	" 1900-1	...	238	87	625	33	306	488	...	1539	586
28th	" 1901-2	...	240	118	446	44	464	500	...	1572	779
29th	" 1902-3	...	241	243	929	71	716	615	...	2574	1532
30th	" 1903-4	...	240	175	614	44	546	533	70	1982	1088
31st	" 1904-5	...	240	141	593	63	615	578	190	2180	1050
32nd	" 1905-6	...	239	167	874	69	595	475	114	2294	1175
TOTALS			7699	4742	10337	559	11461	16787	374	44260	11841

BRANCH No. 1—KENRICK PARK.

Open from 9 a.m. to 9-30 p.m.

A Reading and News Room was opened at 215, Spon Lane, on the 1st January, 1883.

This Reading Room was transferred to the New Buildings, Kenrick Park, on Monday, the 28th September, 1903.

The following papers are regularly supplied:—

Those marked with an Asterisk () are presented.*

DAILY.

Birmingham Evening Despatch	London Daily News
„ Daily Post	„ „ Standard
„ „ Gazette	„ „ Mail
„ „ Mail (2 copies)	

WEEKLY.

Boys' Own Paper	*Midland Advertiser
English Mechanic	*Phonetic Journal
Engineer	Punch
Good Words	*West Bromwich Free Press
Graphic	* „ „ Weekly News
Illustrated London News	* „ „ Chronicle

MONTHLY.

*Animals' Friend	*Free Russia
Band of Hope	*Nature Notes
British Workman	Strand Magazine
Cassell's Magazine	Sunday at Home
Chambers' Journal	Windsor
English Illustrated Magazine	World and His Wife
*Free Life	*Zoophilist

In addition to the above Literature, 370 volumes are accessible to the public, for use in the Reading Room only.

BRANCH No. 2—HILL TOP.

Open from 9 a.m. to 9-30 p.m.

A Reading and News Room was opened on Monday, January 15th, 1883, at the Office originally occupied by Mr. F. W. Topham.

This Reading Room was transferred to the New Public Buildings, Hill Top, on Monday, the 20th June, 1898.

The following papers are regularly supplied:—

Those marked with an Asterisk () are presented.*

DAILY.

Birmingham Daily Post	Wolverhampton Express and Star
„ „ Gazette	London Daily News
„ „ Mail	„ „ Standard
„ Evening Despatch	„ „ Mail

WEEKLY.

English Mechanic	*Phonetic Journal
Garden	Punch
Good Words	*West Bromwich Free Press
Graphic	* „ „ Weekly News
Illustrated London News	* „ „ Chronicle
*Midland Advertiser	*Wolverhampton Chronicle

MONTHLY.

*Animals' Friend	*Free Russia
Band of Hope	*Nature Notes
British Workman	Strand Magazine
Cassell's Magazine	Sunday at Home
Century	World and His Wife
Chambers' Journal	*Zoophilist
*Free Life	

In addition to the above Literature, 387 volumes are accessible to the public, for use in the Reading Room only.

BRANCH No. 3—GREET'S GREEN.

Open from 9 a.m. to 9-30 p.m.

A Reading and News Room, which was opened on Wednesday, the 17th January, 1883, at No. 1, Great Bridge, was removed to the entrance to the Recreation Ground, Greet's Green, and opened on Monday, 1st August, 1892.

The following papers are regularly supplied:—

Those marked with an Asterisk () are presented.*

DAILY.

Birmingham Daily Post	Wolverhampton Express and Star
„ „ Gazette	London Daily News
„ „ Mail	„ „ Standard
„ Evening Despatch	„ „ Mail

WEEKLY.

*Alliance News	*Midland Advertiser
Boys' Own Paper	*Phonetic Journal
Building World	Punch
*Drapers' Record	*West Bromwich Free Press
Engineer	* „ „ Weekly News
English Mechanic	* „ „ Chronicle
Graphic	*Wolverhampton Chronicle
Illustrated London News	

MONTHLY.

*Animals' Friend	*Labour Gazette
Band of Hope	*Nature Notes
British Workman	Strand Magazine
Cassell's Magazine	Woman at Home
Chambers' Journal	White & Pike Time Table
English Illustrated Magazine	World and His Wife
*Free Life	Young Man
*Free Russia	*Zoophilist

In addition to the above Literature, 260 volumes are accessible to the public, for use in the Reading Room only.

DONATIONS OF BOOKS, Etc.

Amalgamated Press, Ltd., Carmelite Street, E.C.—

Daily Mail Year Book, 1906.

Blades, Alderman J. H., J.P., Oakhurst, West Bromwich—

Alliance News (Weekly) to Greets Green Branch.

Board of Trade, Commission for Labour, 44, Parliament Street, London—

Reports as published.

British Museum Authorities—

Guide to Gallery of Birds.

Catalogue of Moths. Vol. V.

Catalogue of Japanese Printed Books.

Guide to Antiquities of Early Iron Age.

Guide to Naval Exhibition : Nelson Centenary.

Catalogue of Corals. Vol. V.

Glossopteris Flora.

Browne, Messrs. T. B., Ltd., 163, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.—

Advertisers' A.B.C.

Carson, T. G., Coleraine, Ireland—

Man's Responsibility.

Emigrants' Information Office, 31, Broadway, Westminster, S.W.—

Handbooks respecting Emigration, chiefly to the British Colonies (four copies received quarterly for Central and Branches).

Engam Publishing Co., 25, Bedford Street, Strand—

Book of the Motor Car (Sloss).

Insect Life (Comstock).

British Nation (Wrong).

Treatise on Surveying (Gillespie). Two volumes.

Astronomy (Comstock).

Geology (Brigham).

Commercial Geography (Adams).

Familiar Flowers (Matthews).

Freeth, W., Victoria Street, West Bromwich—

Alliance News (Weekly) to Central Reading Room.

Guildhall Library Committee, London, E.C.—

Calendar of Letters. 1885.

Calendar of Wills. 2 vols.

Descriptive Account of Guildhall.

Guide to Guildhall and Guildhall Museum.

Guildhall Library and its Work.

History of the Monument.

Index to the Remembrancia.

London and the Kingdom (3 vols.), 2 sets.

London's Roll of Fame. 1884.

Memorials of London, 13th, 14th, and 15th Centuries.

Report on the Day Census. 1881.

Short Account of Tower Bridge.

Statistical Vindication of City of London.

Harding, Messrs. J. W. & Co., South Parade, Nottingham—

20 Volumes of Music.

*Iron and Steel Institute, per B. H. Brough, 28, Victoria Street,
London, S.W.—*

Iron and Steel Institute Journal, 1905-6.

Layton, Messrs. C. and E., 56, Farringdon Street, E.C.—

Handy Newspaper List.

Insurance Register.

Library Reports (about 200).

Library Catalogues (various).

Longman, T. N., 39, Paternoster Row, E.C.—

Wordsworth and Coleridge Manuscripts.

Macdonald, Messrs. W. & Co., London Road, Edinburgh—

English Directory.

Mather & Crowther, Messrs., New Bridge Street, E.C.—

Practical Advertising, 1905-6.

Patent Office Comptroller, 25, Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane—

Illustrated Official Journal (Weekly).

Abridgements of Specifications in Classes.

Publishers and Proprietors for Reading Rooms—

Publications are denoted by an Asterisk (*) on pages 9, 10, 19, 20, 21.

Sherwell, G. W., Lombard Street—

Burgess List, 1905-6.

Smithsonian Institution (per S. P. Langley), Washington, U.S.A.—

Smithsonian Institution Reports, 1896, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, and 1904.

Society of Arts (per H. Wood), John Street, Adelphi, London—

Leather for Bookbinding.

Stubbs' Publishing Co., Ltd., New Broad Street, E.C.—

Stubbs' Directory, 1906.

University, Birmingham, per the Secretary—

Calendar, 1905-6.

University, Durham, per the Registrar—

Calendar, 1905-6.

University Correspondence College Press, Cambridge—

London University Guide, 1905-6.

Watson, C. M., 47, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.—

Report of Royal Commission for St. Louis Exhibition, 1904.

West Bromwich Corporation, per A. Caddick—

Burgess Roll, 1905-6.

West Bromwich Corporation, per G. W. Davis, Inspector of Weights and Measures—

Report for the Year ending March, 1906.

West Bromwich Corporation, per A. D. Greatorex—

County Borough of West Bromwich Bye-laws, 1905 (4 copies).

West Bromwich Corporation, per T. Hudson—

Abstract of Accounts for the Year ending March 31st, 1906.

*West Bromwich Corporation, per Dr. H. Manley, Medical Officer
of Health—*

Report of the Health of the County Borough.

Whiteley, R. Lloyd, Science School, West Bromwich—

Elementary Text Book of Inorganic Chemistry.

Wilson, J. E. (Mayor), Hill Top, West Bromwich—

An Act of Parliament for the Taking Down and Re-building
of the Parish Church of Tipton, 1794.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS from

To Receipts.

£ s. d. £ s. d.

MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT.

BOROUGH RATE—

Amount of Rate transferred at One Penny in the £	836	1	9
--	-----	---	---

Central Library.

Fines	...	...	...	...	32	4	1	
Membership Forms	..	...	...	...	3	4	7	
Damage to Books	...	...	...	...	12	2		
Books lost by Borrowers	...	...	...	...	17	0		
Sale of Papers	...	...	...	...	8	19	5	
Sale of Catalogues	...	...	...	...	3	1	3	
Sale of Old Books	...	...	...	...	5	7	3	
								54 5 9

Spon Lane Branch Reading Room.

Sale of Papers	1	2	10
----------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---	---	----

Hill Top Branch Reading Room.

Sale of Papers	1	14	11
----------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---	----	----

Greets Green Branch Reading Room.

Sale of Papers	1	6	6
----------------	-----	-----	----	-----	---	---	---

£894 11 9

1st April, 1905, to 31st March, 1906.

By Payments.

£ s. d. £ s. d.

MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT.**Central Library.**

Salaries and Wages	...	...	...	252	15	8
Additional Books, and Books to replace those worn out	...	...	...	136	11	5
Bookbinding	...	...	...	27	13	6
Newspapers and Magazines	...	...	...	50	13	5
Advertising, Printing and Stationery	...	...	...	23	0	5
General Repairs and Maintenance	...	...	...	4	7	6
Furniture and Fittings	...	...	...	13	14	6
Electric Light, Current and Fittings	...	...	...	42	19	6
Water	...	...	...	2	16	9
Subscriptions to various Societies	...	...	...	2	12	6
Petty Disbursements and Sundries	...	...	...	47	5	6

TOWN HALL ACCOUNT—

Proportion of Coal used	...	...	...	10	0	0
					614	10 8

New Library Buildings.

Prizes for Designs	...	...	...	50	0	0
Assessor's Fee	...	...	...	15	15	0
					65	15 0

Spon Lane Branch Reading Room.

Rent, Heating, and Lighting	...	...	...	35	0	0
Newspapers and Magazines	...	...	...	14	4	0
					49	4 0

Hill Top Branch Reading Room.

Newspapers and Magazines		13	7 2
--------------------------	-----	-----	-----	--	----	-----

Greets Green Branch Reading Room.

Rent, Lighting and Heating	...	...	...	35	0	0
Newspapers and Magazines	...	...	...	14	6	8
					49	6 8

Loan Charges.

Interest on Corporation Stock allocated to this Account	...	...	...	35	15	8
Instalment for Extinction of Corporation Stock, and Interest on Accumulations	...	...	...	31	3	0
					66	18 8

859 2 2

Receipts in excess of Payments		35	9 7
--------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	--	----	-----

£894 11 9

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE from

ACCOUNTS.	PAYMENTS.	LIABILITIES Incurred but not paid.		EXPENDITURE from 1st April, 1905, to 31st March, 1906.
		31st March, 1905	31st March, 1906	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Central Library	614 10 8	108 3 10	67 6 0	573 12 10
New Library Buildings ...	65 15 0			65 15 0
Spon Lane Branch	49 4 0	3 10 0	3 10 2	49 4 2
Hill Top Branch	13 7 2	3 6 0	3 5 7	13 6 9
Greets Green Branch	49 6 8	3 11 2	3 10 2	49 5 8
Interest and Repayment of Loan	66 18 8			66 18 8
		118 11 0	77 11 11	
		77 11 11		
		40 19 1		
BALANCE, 31st March, 1906—				
In hands of Bankers 1351 2 0	£ s. d.			
Less Balance, 31st March, 1905—				
In hands of Bankers 1318 12 5				
Receipts in excess of Payments	35 9 7			
Income in excess of Expenditure				76 8 8
	£894 11 9			£894 11 9

ACCOUNTS.	RECEIPTS.	ASSETS				Income from 1st April, 1905, to 31st March, 1906.
		Accrued but not received.				
		31st March, 1905		31st March, 1906		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Amount of Library Rate	836 1 9	...	...	...	836 1 9
Central Library ...	54 5 9	...	...	...	54 5 9
Spon Lane Branch ...	1 2 10	...	...	...	1 2 10
Hill Top Branch ...	1 14 11	...	...	...	1 14 11
Greets Green Branch ...	1 6 6	...	...	...	1 6 6

CAPITAL

To Receipts.

£ s. d. £ s. d.

LOANS.

WEST BROMWICH CORPORATION REDEEMABLE

STOCK (First Issue)—

Amount of Stock allocated to this Account	...	1510	17	0	
Less Stock Extinguished	... ...	13	14	0	
					1497 3 0

REVENUE ACCOUNT.

Contribution towards Cost of Construction	...	500	0	0	
Instalments in repayment of Loans	... ...	697	12	2	
					1197 12 2

EXTINCTION OF STOCK.

Loans Fund applied in Extinction of Stock	...				13 14 0
---	-----	--	--	--	---------------

£2708 9 2

SPECIAL

NEW FREE LIBRARY

To Receipts.

£ s. d.

Received on account of amount promised by Mr. A. Carnegie for New Library Buildings	1000	0	0
--	--------------------------------	------	---	---

£1000 0 0

ACCOUNT.

By Payments.

	£	s.	d.
Expenditure to date	2500	0	0
Commuted Value of Interest on Mortgage for unexpired period	115	8	9
Discounts and Costs of Raising Stock	93	0	5

£2708 9 2

ACCOUNT.

BUILDING ACCOUNT.

By Payments.

	£	s.	d.
On account of Architect's Commission	50	0	0
BALANCE, 31st March, 1906—			
In hands of Bankers	950	0	0

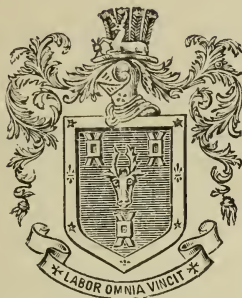
£1000 0 0

Liabilities.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
CAPITAL ACCOUNT.									
WEST BROMWICH CORPORATION STOCK (First Issue (Balance))				1497	3	0			
BALANCE, being amount of debt extinguished, viz.—									
Amount provided out of Revenue as a Contribution towards Cost of Construction	500	0	0						
Instalments to Sinking Fund appropriated in reduction of debt to 31st March, 1906	697	12	2						
	1197	12	2						
Amount of Stock cancelled out of the accumulations for Extinction of Stock	13	14	0						
				1211	6	2	2708	9	2
SPECIAL ACCOUNT.									
New Free Library—Carnegie Gift							1000	0	0
REVENUE ACCOUNT.									
SUNDRY CREDITORS for Balances due to them ...				77	11	11			
Income in excess of Expenditure for year ended 31st March, 1906 ...	76	8	8						
Add Income in Excess of Expenditure to 31st March, 1905	1200	1	5						
<hr/>									
Present Surplus				1276	10	1	1354	2	0
<hr/>									
THOS. HUDSON, BOROUGH TREASURER.									
GUILDFORD O. HODGES, LIBRARIAN & SECRETARY.							£5062	11	2

31st March, 1906.

Assets.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
CAPITAL ACCOUNT.									
PROPERTY AND PERMANENT WORKS	2500	0	0						
COMMUTED VALUE OF INTEREST on Mortgages converted into Stock	115	8	9						
DISCOUNTS AND COSTS OF RAISING STOCK ...	93	0	5						
							2708	9	2
SPECIAL ACCOUNT.									
NEW FREE LIBRARY BUILDINGS—									
Expenditure thereon to date	50	0	0						
BALANCE, 31st March, 1906—In hands of Bankers	950	0	0				1000	0	0
REVENUE ACCOUNT.									
SUNDRY DEBTORS for Balances owing by them ...									
BALANCE, 31st March, 1906—In hands of Bankers	1354	2	0						
							1354	2	0
Audited and found correct,									
GEO. T. COLEMAN, F.C.A., }									
CLEMENT KEYS, A.C.A., }									
Auditors.							£5062	11	2

COUNTY BOROUGH OF WEST BROMWICH.



Thirty-third Report

OF THE

Free Library Committee

PRESENTED TO THE TOWN COUNCIL,

NOVEMBER, 1907.

WEST BROMWICH:

PRINTED BY GREGORY & TOMKINS, TOWER PRINTING WORKS,
CARTERS GREEN.

FORM OF BEQUEST.

I bequeath, out of such part of my personal estate as may by Law be bequeathed for such purposes, to the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of West Bromwich, in the County of Staffordshire, the sum of

free from Legacy Duty, for the benefit of the Public Libraries of the said Borough, to be expended in such way as the Committee for the time being may deem expedient; and I direct that the receipt of the Treasurer for the time being of the said Borough shall be an effectual discharge for the same Legacy.

AREA 5,860 ACRES.

POPULATION IN 1901, 65,172.

HOUSES, 14,492.

RATEABLE VALUE, £227,251 5s.

Chronological History.

- 1870 Public Libraries Act unanimously adopted, 30th November.
1873 Mr. P. D. Bennett appointed first Chairman, 7th January.
1874 D. Dickinson appointed Librarian, 13th February.
1874 Central Newsroom opened, 31st August.
1875 Lending Library opened, 15th February.
1875 Reference Library opened, 15th March.
1876 Henry Williams, Esq., appointed Chairman, 21st June.
1882 Mr. C. H. Bayley, Hon. Secretary, died in November.
1882 Librarian appointed Secretary.
1883 Branch Reading Room opened, Spon Lane, 1st January.
1883 " " " Hill Top, 15th January.
1883 " " " Greets Green, 17th January.
1884 Subscription Library formed and opened, 1st January.
1891 Mr. J. Manley appointed Chairman, 18th November.
1892 Branch Reading Room at Great Bridge transferred to Farley Park,
 Greets Green, 1st August.
1895 Permission granted to the Science and Art Masters to borrow books from
 the Reference Library for the use of Students at the Institute, 18th
 December; cancelled, July, 1902.
1898 Branch Reading Room at Hill Top transferred to the Park at Hill Top
 in July.
1900 Death of Mr. D. Dickinson. 8th March. (First Librarian).
1900 Mr. Guildford O. Hodges appointed Librarian, 6th April.
1902 Councillor H. L. Browne appointed Chairman, 12th February.
1902 Fifth Edition of Lending Library Catalogue Published, April
1903 Spon Lane Reading Room transferred to Kenrick Park in September.
1905 Dr. Andrew Carnegie offers £7,500 for a new Library, 24th June.
1905 Dr. Andrew Carnegie's offer accepted by Town Council, 5th July.
1906 Foundation Stone of New Free Library laid, April 27th, by Councillor
 H. Langley Browne, M.D.
1907 Branch Reading Room opened, Churchfield, 4th March.
1907 New Central Library opened, 10th June, by His Worship the Mayor,
 Councillor J. E. Wilson, J.P.
1907 Reference Library "Sheaf" Catalogue Published. June.

1906-7.

Committee :

COUNCILLOR H. L. BROWNE, M.D., L.L.D., CHAIRMAN.

REV. J. W. JONES, M.A., DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN.

ALDERMAN J. H. BLADES, J.P.

COUNCILLOR J. E. WILSON (MAYOR).

COUNCILLOR A. G. TURLEY (DEPUTY MAYOR).

COUNCILLOR W. N. HALFORD.

MR. J. BUTLER

MR. A. CADDICK (Town Clerk)

MR. W. FREETH

MR. J. GRIFFITHS

DR. H. MANLEY, M.A., M.D.

REV. T. PARR, M.A.

MR. W. S. WATTS

MR. W. WITHINGTON

Book-Buying Committee :

COUNCILLOR H. L. BROWNE, M.D., L.L.D.

COUNCILLOR J. E. WILSON (MAYOR).

MR. A. CADDICK

REV. J. W. JONES, M.A.

DR. H. MANLEY, M.A., M.D.

REV. T. PARR, M.A.

Librarian and Secretary :

GUILDFORD O. HODGES.

ASSISTANT, CENTRAL LIBRARY, JOSEPH WOODHALL.

„ „ „ JAMES H. WALL.

CARETAKER, „ „ WILLIAM DAVIS.

Branches :

CARETAKER, No. 1—KENRICK PARK: T. KENNETT.

„ No. 2—HILL TOP: J. WHITEHOUSE.

„ No. 3—GREET'S GREEN: H. JONES.

„ No. 4—CHURCHFIELD: J. INCE.

THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
COMMITTEE
OF THE
West Bromwich Free Library.

*To the Worshipful the Mayor and Corporation of the Borough of
West Bromwich.*

GENTLEMEN,

It is with pleasure the Committee present their Thirty-third Annual Report.

As is well known, the New Central Library (the gift of Mr. Andrew Carnegie) was opened by His Worship the Mayor, Councillor J. E. Wilson, J.P., on June 10th, 1907, a red letter day in the history of the Library movement in West Bromwich.

The improved facilities are greatly appreciated by all sections of the community, particularly so by readers and students using the Lending and Reference Libraries, which departments have been entirely re-arranged and brought as much up-to-date as possible.

Reviewing the year's work, the Committee feel great satisfaction with the work done by the Libraries under their control, in spite of the fact that the Central Library was closed for six weeks for stock-taking and removal of the books from the old building to the new, a perusal of the accompanying statistics will show that this year's work has been satisfactory.

The Committee desire to tender their sincere thanks for the following valuable donations:—Mr. Andrew Carnegie, £214 16s. 3d., to defray extras incurred in erection of the New Free Library; Mr. John Spencer, £50 0s. 0d., for mural decorations; also the following contributions to the Book Fund: Councillor J. Archibald Kenrick, £50 0s. 0d.; Dr. H. Manley, £5 0s. 0d.

The Committee very earnestly appeal for donations to the Book Fund, also for the townsmen to co-operate with them in making the Central Library the repository of whatever is best in the shape of books, prints, manuscripts, etc., etc., which they consider worthy to be added to the town's collection. Whatever is of local interest would be especially welcomed.

Resignation.—The Rev. T. Parr having resigned his position on the Committee, the Rev. F. A. Homer has been appointed to fill the vacancy.

LENDING DEPARTMENT.

Stock.—During the year there has been added to this department, by purchase, 168 volumes; by presentation, 2; by transfer from Subscription Library, 118; total, 288.

Stock-taking and Removal.—The Libraries were closed for Stock-taking and removal of the books, etc., from the old building to the new, on April 29th, and re-opened on June 11th. During the year, out of an issue of 66,683 volumes, no loss whatever has occurred. During this closed period the whole stock was again carefully inspected, and 312 volumes being out-of-date and not required, were withdrawn from circulation. This brings the total number of books withdrawn from the Central Lending Library, since March, 1900, to 3824 volumes, an average of 546 volumes per annum for the past seven years. This revision of stock has been a tedious task, and could only be slowly and carefully done, but it has resulted in our getting rid of what was superfluous. The Library is now practically expunged of all extraneous literature.

Issues.—66,683 volumes have been issued to 66,593 borrowers, giving a daily average of 303 volumes.

Since 1899-1900 the daily average issues have been increasing, and the past year gives a further increase, the daily average being the highest recorded since 1877-78.

Borrowers' Cards.—The number of borrowers who renewed their tickets or took out new ones during the year was 1486, against 1261 last year. The actual number of cards in use on 30th September, 1907, was 2747.

It is an interesting fact that although the new building has only been open four months, and borrowers were inconvenienced by the Libraries being closed six weeks for the transfer of the books, that the daily average of borrowers using the Library for the past year is the highest recorded for any year since its inception in 1874.

Receipts.—The fines for the detention of books beyond the allotted time, together with sales of catalogues, papers, &c., realised £53 0s. 8d, a slight decrease on the previous year's figures.

Wear and Tear of Books.—418 volumes have been worn out and re-placed, 431 have been re-bound, and 490 have been repaired on the premises by the Library staff.

Infectious Disease.—By special arrangement with the Sanitary Committee, several cases of infectious disease were reported of borrowers using the Library. In all cases the books were destroyed and re-placed with new copies by the Committee, thus ensuring absolute freedom from risk in the use of the Library.

This department now consists of 11,210 volumes.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

With regard to the Reference Department, the Committee have particular pleasure in recording that the new accommodation has resulted in the increased usefulness anticipated from it.

The most important changes have been introduced here, the whole of the books having been re-arranged and classified, and also a new catalogue compiled by the Librarian. Several valuable works have been added to this department, and it is intended to further augment these as funds will allow. The new "Book Fund," which has started so well, is intended to be used chiefly for this purpose.

Consultations.—In spite of the fact that this department was also closed for six weeks, and that no record is kept of the hundreds of references made to Directories and other works of reference in the Open Public Shelves in the Central Reading Room, 2708 volumes have been consulted, against 2294 volumes the previous year. This also is a record, being the highest number of volumes ever consulted in any one year.

Additions to Stock.—During the year 88 volumes were added to this department—by purchase, 71 ; by gift, 17.

This department now consists of 3648 volumes.

READING ROOMS.

The improved accommodation at the Central Reading Room is much appreciated, and only the regular visitor to the Libraries can speak of the usefulness of the News Rooms, where crowds of persons flock daily to read the ample supply of newspapers, or to consult any of the magazines provided.

It is satisfactory to note that since the opening of the new building, the general conduct of those who have attended the Reading Rooms has been exemplary, and there has been no instance of any irregularity.

The separate provision of rooms for Ladies and Boys has evoked an increased appreciation of the Committee's efforts to popularise the Reading Rooms.

A new Branch Reading Room was opened in Tenscore Street, Churchfield, on March 4th, 1907, by His Worship the Mayor, Councillor J. E. Wilson, J.P. This room, together with the Branches at Kenrick Park, Hill Top, and Greets Green, continue to be well used and appreciated.

ADMINISTRATION.

In concluding the review of the year's work, it is gratifying to state that several deputations from other Library Authorities have visited your Central Library, and they have shown their appreciation by speaking in favourable terms of the arrangements provided for the convenience of the public, and of the mode of administration.

ATTENDANCES.

There have been sixteen meetings of the Committee, the attendance of the members being as follows :

The Mayor, Councillor J. E. Wilson ...	...	12
Alderman J. H. Blades ...	...	4
Councillor H. Langley Browne (Chairman) ...	...	13
Councillor W. N. Halford ...	...	15
Councillor A. G. Turley ...	...	8
Mr. J. Butler ...	...	13
Mr. Alfred Caddick ...	...	7
Mr. W. Freeth ...	...	15
Mr. J. Griffiths ...	...	10
Rev. J. W. Jones (Deputy Chairman) ...	...	11
Dr. Herbert Manley ...	...	10
Rev. T. Parr ...	...	10
Mr. W. S. Watts...	...	11
Mr. W. Withington ...	...	13

Signed on behalf of the Free Library Committee,

H. LANGLEY BROWNE, Chairman.

GUILDFORD O. HODGES, Librarian.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES, AND PERIODICALS
SUPPLIED TO THE READING ROOMS.

*Those marked * are presented.*

NAME.	CENTRAL	KENRICK PARK	HILL TOP	GREET'S GREEN	CHURCHFIELD	NAME.	CENTRAL	KENRICK PARK	HILL TOP	GREET'S GREEN	CHURCHFIELD
DAILY.						Era	1				
Birmingham—Evening Despatch	1	1	1	1	1	Evesham Journal	1				
„ Gazette	2	1	1	1		Exchange and Mart	1				
„ Mail	3	2	1	1	1	Focus	1				
„ Post	3	1	1	1	1	Garden		1			
Daily Graphic	1					Gardening	1				1
Daily Mirror	1					Gentlewoman	1				
Liverpool Mercury	1					Good Words		1	1		
London—Chronicle	1					Graphic	1	1	1	1	
„ Daily Mail	1	1	1	1	1	*Grocers' Review	1				
„ Daily News	1	1	1	1	1	Illustrated London News	1	1	1	1	1
„ Standard	1	1	1	1	1	*Investors' Guardian	1				
„ Telegraph	1					*Iron and Coal Trades' Review	1				
„ Times	1					*Kidderminster Shuttle	1				
Manchester Guardian	1					Lady	1				
Yorkshire Post	1					Lady's Pictorial	1				
Wolverhampton—Evening Ex- press and Star	1		1	1		*Laundry Journal	1				
WEEKLY.						*Local Government Chronicle	1				
*Alliance News	1			1		*Local Government Journal	1				
Architect	1					*Machinery Market Supplement	1				
Athenæum	1					*Midland Advertiser	3	1	1	1	
Birmingham Weekly Post	1					*Midland Counties Herald	1				
*Blackpool Herald	1					Mining Journal	1				
*Board of Trade Journal	1					*Motor Traction	1				
Boys Own Paper		1		1		*Patents (Illustrated Official Journal)	1				
Builder	1					*Phonetic Journal	1	1	1	1	
Building News	1					Photography	1				
„ World				1		*Present Truth	1				
*Canada	1					Punch	1	1	1	1	
*Canadian Gazette	1					Queen	1				
Chums	1					*School Government Chronicle	1				
*Civil Service Aspirant	1					*Smethwick Telephone	1				
*„ „ Competitor	1					Spectator	1				
Clarion	1					Sphere	1				
*Colliery Guardian	1					Sporting and Dramatic News	1				
*Contract Journal	1					Staffordshire Advertiser	1				
*Drapers' Record	1			1		Truth	1				
Electrical Review	1					*Warwickshire Advertiser	1				
Engineer	1	1		1		*Wednesbury Herald	1				
Engineering	1					*West Bromwich Chronicle	3	1	1	1	
English Mechanic	1	1	1	1	1	*„ „ Free Press	4	1	1	1	
*„ Churchman	1					*„ „ Weekly News	3	1	1	1	
						*Wolverhampton Chronicle	1		1	1	
						*Worcester Herald	1				
						Work	1				1

NAME.	CENTRAL	KENRICK PARK	HILL TOP	GREET'S GREEN	CHURCHFIELD	NAME.	CENTRAL	KENRICK PARK	HILL TOP	GREET'S GREEN	CHURCHFIELD
MONTHLY.						<i>Railway Time Tables—</i>					
Art Journal ...	1					Bradshaw's Guide...	1				
Band of Hope ...	1	1	1	1		*Caledonian ...	1				
Blackwood's Magazine ...	1					*Cook's Excursionist ...	1				
Bookseller ...	1					*Glasgow and South Western ...	1				
*Britain's Opium Harvest ...	1					*Great Eastern Continental ...	1				
British Workman ...	1	1	1	1		*Great Northern ...	1				
*Canadian Life and Resources ...	1					*Great Western ...	1				
Captain ...	1					*London and North-Western ...	1				
Cassell's Magazine ...	1	1	1	1	1	*Midland ...	1				
Century Magazine (Scribner) ...	1		1			*North British ...	1				
Chambers' Journal ...	1	1	1	1	1	*North Eastern ...	1				
*Child's Guardian ...	1					*White and Pike ...	1			1	
*Church of England League Gazette ...	1					*Rechabite Magazine ...	1				
*Clerk of Works Journal ...	1					Review of Reviews ...	1				
Contemporary Review ...	1					St. Nicholas ...	1				
*County Council Record ...	1					*State Correspondent ...	1				
*Deceased Seamen ...	1					Strand Magazine ...	1	1	1	1	
*Educational Times ...	1					*Students' Journal ...	1				
English Illustrated ...	1	1		1		Sunday at Home ...		1	1		
*Food and Cookery ...	1					*Sunday Closing Reporter ...	1				
*Foresters' Review ...	1					*Vaccination Inquirer ...	1				
Fornightly Review ...	1					*Vegetarian Messenger ...	1				
*Free Life ...	1	1	1	1		*Vulcan ...	1				
*Free Russia ...	1	1	1	1		*Westminster Record ...	1				
Girls' Own Paper ...	1					*White Ribbon ...	1				
*G.W.R. Magazine ...	1					Windsor Magazine ...	1	1			1
Harper's Magazine ...	1					World and His Wife ...	1	1	1	1	
*Herald of the Golden Age ...	1					Woman at Home ...					1
*Herald of Health ...	1					*Young Journalist ...	1				
*Individualist... ..	1					Young Man ...				1	
*Insurance Agents' Review ...	1					*Zoophilist ...	1	1	1	1	
*Labour Gazette ...	1			1		QUARTERLY.					
Lady's World ...	1					Army List ...	1				
Macfadden's Magazine ...	1					*Englishwoman's Review ...	1				
*Machinery Market ...	1					Hibbert Journal ...	1				
Macmillan's Magazine ...	1					*Men's Magazine ...	1				
*Mercury Magazine ...	2				1	Navy List ...	1				
*Musical Herald ...	1					AS PUBLISHED.					
National Review ...	1					*Anti-Slavery Report ...	1				
*New Church Magazine ...	1					*Emigration Circulars ...	20	1	1	1	1
Nineteenth Century ...	1					*Queensland Mining Journal ...	1				
*Positivist Review ...	1					*University Correspondent ...	1				
*Protestant Magazine ...	1										
Quiver ...	1				1						

TABLE I.

SHOWING STOCK IN LIBRARIES AND BRANCH READING ROOMS.

Lending Library.				
In Stock previously	...	...	...	11315
Withdrawn	...	...	...	312
Worn out and out of print	...	...	...	45
Volumes lost by replacement of Works in several volumes, by editions in one volume	...	...	...	36
Total loss ascertained out of issue of 66,683 vols.	...	...	...	0
				393
				10922
Added during the year:—				
By Gift	...	...	...	2
„ purchase...	...	...	...	168
„ transfer from Subscription Library	...	...	...	118
				288
Total Stock in Lending Library				11210
Reference Library.				
In Stock previously	...	...	...	3568
Withdrawn	...	...	...	8
				8
				3560
Added during the year:—				
By Gift	...	...	...	17
„ purchase...	...	...	...	71
				88
Total Stock in Reference Library				3648
Branch Reading Rooms.				
Kenrick Park	...	...	...	370
Hill Top	...	...	...	387
Greets Green	...	...	...	260
Churchfield	...	...	...	30
				1047
Total Stock.				
Lending Library	...	...	...	11210
Reference Library	...	...	...	3648
Branch Reading Rooms	...	...	...	1047
Central Reading Room	...	...	...	450
				16355

TABLE II.

SHOWING THE NUMBER OF VOLUMES IN EACH CLASS IN REFERENCE
AND LENDING DEPARTMENTS.

Lending Library.

A	Theology and Philosophy ...	...	657
B	History, Biography, and Travels	...	2808
C	Law, Politics, and Commerce	...	245
D	Science, Art, and Natural History	...	983
E	Poetry and Drama	...	450
F	Magazines and Reviews	...	41
G	Fiction	...	4430
H	Miscellaneous Literature	...	672
J	Juvenile Literature	...	675
K	Music ...	...	250
			— 11210

Reference Library.

A	Theology and Philosophy ...	...	474
B	History, Biography, and Travels	...	902
C	Law, Politics, and Commerce	...	71
D	Science, Art, and Natural History	...	518
E	Miscellaneous Literature, Encyclo- pædias, etc.	...	1559
F	Poetry and Drama	...	124
			— 3648
			— 14,858

TABLE III.

Classified Return of the Volumes borrowed from the Lending Library during the Twelve Months ending Sept. 30th, 1907.

DATE.	Days open.	Theology & Philosophy.	History, Biography, and Travels.	Law, Politics and Commerce.	Science and Art.	Poetry and Drama.	Magazines and Reviews.	* Fiction.	Miscellaneous Literature.	* Juvenile Literature.	Music.	Totals.		Daily Average Volumes.	Daily Average Borrowers.
												Vols	Bor- rowers		
October ...	23	90	370	86	521	65	28	3979	168	1041	227	6575	6563	286	285
November ...	21	70	355	63	427	80	21	4146	148	1018	186	6511	6590	310	310
December ...	20	58	334	61	395	78	19	4135	139	1049	182	6459	6442	322	322
January ...	22	70	311	50	379	72	27	4321	155	1057	182	6324	6614	301	301
February ...	20	72	314	51	355	75	22	4096	155	1020	159	6319	6317	316	316
March ...	21	89	328	52	381	81	25	4401	173	1053	189	6772	6768	322	322
April ...	14	46	193	35	206	39	13	2495	86	659	104	3876	3873	277	276
May ...	—	—	—	—	—	CLOSED	FOR REVAL	REVAL	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
June ...	14	57	235	53	294	49	10	2496	113	664	121	4092	4084	292	291
July ...	23	81	309	56	342	64	16	4356	142	1192	151	6719	6704	292	291
August ...	21	73	297	46	307	67	16	4267	126	1021	143	6363	6352	303	302
September ...	21	69	294	45	378	62	27	4200	147	985	172	6379	6376	303	303
Totals ...	220	775	3340	598	3985	732	224	42902	1552	10759	1816	66583	66593	303	303

* Time allowed for reading works of Fiction and Juvenile Literature, 7 days; all other classes, 14 days.

Occupations of Borrowers admitted to Lending Department during the Year.

Agents, Collectors, and Travellers	14	Ministers	6
Apprentices	9	Miscellaneous	35
Architects and Surveyors...	3	Moulders	23
Artists	3	Musicians	7
Assistants	45	No occupations	19
Bakers and Confectioners	7	Not stated	42
Bookbinders	7	Nurses	9
Bootmakers	2	Office Boys	5
Builders	8	Painters	13
Butchers	10	Pattern-makers	10
Caretakers... ..	3	Photographers	7
Carpenters and Joiners ...	19	Polishers	6
Cashiers	4	Post Office Employèes—	
Casters	6	Males	8
Chemists	8	Females	2
Clerks and Book-keepers—		Printers	11
Males	107	Railwaymen	6
Females... ..	22	Scholars—Boys	138
Doctors	4	„ Girls	102
Drapers	5	School Teachers—Males ...	26
Draughtsmen	12	„ „ Females	83
Dressmakers	22	Schoolmasters	11
Electricians	5	Schoolmistresses	7
Engineers and Fitters ...	36	Servants—Domestic	11
Glassworkers	4	Shopkeepers	23
Hairdressers	11	Smiths	11
Housekeepers	23	Solicitors	2
Ironworkers	18	Students	44
Labourers	12	Tailors	7
Machinists	7	Turners	9
Managers	5	Typists	6
Manufacturers	11	Warehousemen	11
Mechanics... ..	12	Wives and Daughters ...	310
Milliners	9		
Miners	3		
		Total	1486

Ages of New Borrowers.

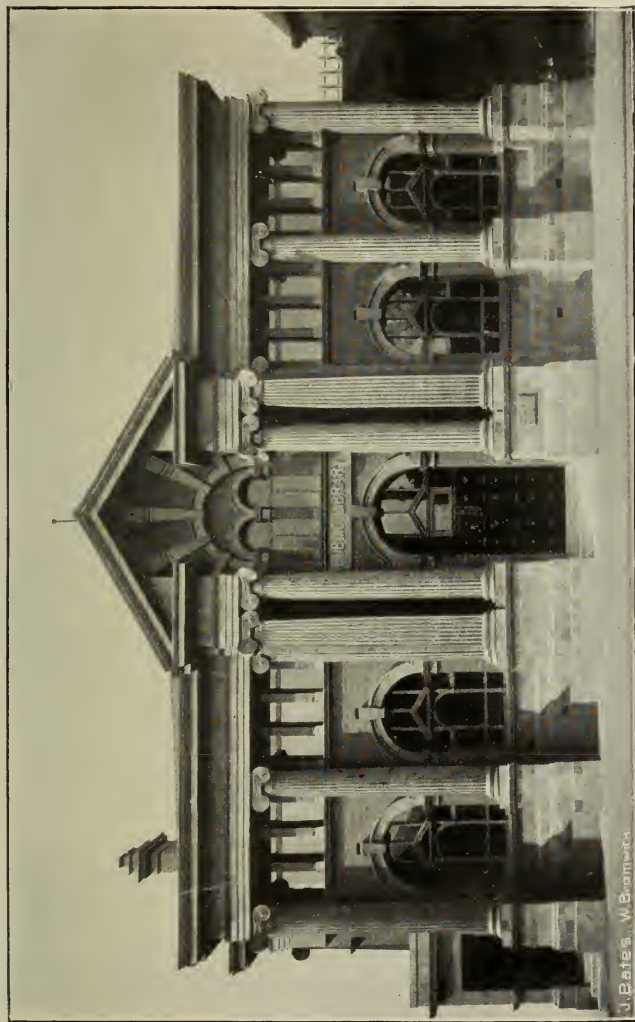
Under 14	208	50 to 55	22
14 to 20	482	55 to 60	8
20 to 25	174	60 and over	23
25 to 30	156	Not stated—Males	29
30 to 35	128	„ Females	123
35 to 40	75		
40 to 45	43	Total	1486
45 to 50	20		

REFERENCE LIBRARY.

TABLE IV.

CLASSIFIED RETURNS OF VOLUMES CONSULTED IN THE REFERENCE
LIBRARY.*During the Twelve Months ending 30th September, 1907.*

DATE.		Days open.	Theology and Philosophy.	History, Biogra- phy and Travels.	Law, Politics and Commerce.	Science, Art and Natural History.	Encyclopædias, Dictionaries and Miscel. Literature.	Poetry and Drama.	Number of Con- sultations.	Number of Readers.
October ...	...	23	59	77	9	68	40	39	292	139
November ...	...	21	36	46	20	37	48	21	208	80
December ...	...	20	16	61	16	26	36	19	174	71
January ...	...	22	10	97	20	38	23	14	202	84
February...	...	20	21	96	25	42	21	20	225	79
March ...	...	21	13	96	8	53	28	16	214	68
April ...	...	14	5	18	6	38	28	29	124	25
May ...	...	—	—	CLOSED FOR REMOVAL				—	—	—
June ...	...	14	7	91	10	138	17	18	281	126
July ...	...	23	9	178	25	150	36	17	415	204
August ...	...	21	22	87	20	108	90	13	340	170
September ...	...	21	9	83	18	77	25	21	233	100
Totals ...	...	220	207	930	177	775	392	227	2708	1146



"CARNEGIE" LIBRARY, WEST BROMWICH.

Opened on June 10th, 1907, by His Worship the Mayor (Councillor J. E. Wilson, J.P.)



J. Bates, W. Bromwich.

CENTRAL CORRIDOR.

LIBRARY
OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Occupations of Readers in the Reference Library.

Accountants	17	Musicians	26
Actors	2	No occupation—Males ...	23
Agents, Collectors, and		” ” Females ...	8
Travellers	47	Not stated	47
Architects and Surveyors...	11	Painters	8
Artists	17	Patentees	15
Assistants	12	Physicians	4
Authors	2	Post Office Employèes ...	4
Brassfounders	3	Printers	17
Builders	6	Pupil Teachers	62
Carpenters and Joiners ...	11	Railwaymen	3
Cashiers	5	Scholars	96
Chemists	11	School Masters	27
Clerks and Book-keepers ...	75	” Mistresses	2
Clergymen and Ministers...	48	” Teachers	79
Draughtsmen	12	Science Teachers	27
Engineers and Fitters ...	44	Secretaries	31
Glassworkers	10	Shopkeepers	17
Insurance	44	Solicitors	6
Ironworkers	8	Students	100
Journalists	14	Tailors	8
Labourers	16	Turners	19
Managers	19	Typists	4
Mechanics	5	Whitesmiths	11
Merchants... ..	6		
Miscellaneous	47		1146
Moulders	10		

NOTE.—2,708 volumes have been consulted by 1,146 readers, who have made a formal application in writing, but in addition to this, hundreds of references are made to Directories, Gazetteers, Newspapers, etc., of which no record is kept.

The following Newspapers are filed in the Reference Library.

West Bromwich Free Press

West Bromwich Chronicle

West Bromwich Weekly News

Midland Advertiser

Copies of the London “Times” and “Birmingham Daily Post” are kept for three months only.

TABLE V.

Showing the Number and Classification of Volumes issued from the Lending Department since opening.

TABLE.	Days open.	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	K	TOTALS.		Aver. Vols.	Average Borrowers.
												Volumes Borrowers			
1st Report, 1874	76	1030	3523	99	1234	623	1822	18735	1479	2179		30724	24893	404	327
2nd " 1875-6	258	2423	7954	250	2874	1567	7244	61610	4190	6582		94694	73768	367	285
3rd " 1876-7	254	1830	6533	216	2326	1164	6242	54045	3485	5954		81801	64179	322	252
4th " 1877-8	256	1603	6088	193	2324	1144	6529	52208	2923	5557		78575	62358	306	243
5th " 1878-9	256	1664	5098	225	2082	1234	6319	48607	2836	6116		74781	62231	292	243
6th " 1879-80	252	1726	5199	115	1785	988	6354	48030	2815	6359		73071	60452	289	239
7th " 1880-1	210	1253	4306	153	2008	1030	4891	35944	2372	4722		56679	49663	269	236
8th " 1881-2	257	1289	5224	205	2585	1173	5923	41180	2901	6522		67002	60724	260	208
9th " 1882-3	253	1286	4769	171	2527	920	5107	35012	2334	4970		57146	53104	225	206
10th " Mar. 27 to Sep. 30 '83	132	465	2115	73	1038	422	2605	16301	872	2286		26237	24715	198	172
Rept.) Oct. 1 '83--Sep. 30 '84	256	1157	4187	114	2098	827	5045	32164	1934	4883		52409	49848	204	194
11th " 1884-5	229	1047	3862	141	2081	732	5010	28302	2037	5929	*227	49868	48238	218	210
12th " 1885-6	257	1108	5240	245	2455	876	6023	39566	2412	9405	1004	68334	65738	262	256
13th " 1886-7	253	983	5067	160	2127	872	5636	39231	2263	8833	732	65909	63347	260	250
14th " 1887-8	255	912	4271	115	1998	708	5555	38497	2002	7687	674	62419	60117	244	235
15th " 1888-9	241	564	3499	166	2032	628	4754	34796	1358	9867	571	58235	56118	241	232
16th " 1889-90	224	519	2867	132	1836	586	3994	31497	1296	9020	551	52298	49637	232	221
17th " 1890-1	230	539	3174	124	1650	428	3703	33085	1202	8334	523	52762	50116	229	217
18th " 1891-2	235	457	2645	107	1531	514	3008	33203	1193	7343	613	51220	50270	217	213
19th " 1892-3	231	449	2317	167	1626	547	2763	32198	1198	7751	748	49764	47520	215	205
20th " 1893-4	228	411	2518	139	1735	645	2879	37773	1203	8403	846	56581	54273	218	238
21st " 1894-5	238	510	2786	143	1618	626	2905	40739	1223	8906	633	60125	58229	252	244
22nd " 1895-6	257	447	2322	108	1624	538	3117	40503	995	8722	432	58868	57634	229	223
23rd " 1896-7	241	400	2043	106	1469	385	3222	36149	1018	7461	627	53730	52443	223	216
24th " 1897-8	238	395	2024	667	1237	6284	62412	35218	6903	6000	633	49146	47682	207	200
25th " 1898-9	242	293	1342	45	957	162	1617	35392	667	4885	573	45399	45051	189	186
26th " 1899-1900	239	150	1336	78	783	146	772	33163	505	4652	441	42034	41379	176	173
27th " 1900-1	238	554	2758	267	2074	428	235	35080	1116	6194	970	49686	49094	203	206
28th " 1901-2	240	618	3278	519	2622	430	310	33286	1863	7038	1608	51608	51239	215	213
29th " 1902-3	241	772	3461	401	3510	517	295	38189	1820	7202	2012	58179	57879	241	240
30th " 1903-4	240	829	3687	490	4138	800	372	37134	1537	6349	2936	57932	57841	242	241
31st " 1904-5	240	768	3370	442	4244	712	311	42354	1472	9113	2145	63731	65644	274	273
32nd " 1905-6	239	733	3641	606	4011	723	254	44961	1653	9443	1917	67342	67847	284	284
33rd " 1906-7	220	775	3340	598	3985	732	224	42902	1552	10759	1816	66683	66593	303	303
TOTALS	7956	29935	126400	7180	74284	24111	118052	1288653	60702	236296	22519	1988132	1849864	250	232

* Borrowers can retain Musical Works two weeks.

† Since January, 1891, the time allowed for reading Theological and Philosophical Works has been extended from one to two weeks.

A Since January, 1891, the time allowed for reading Scientific Works has been extended from one to two weeks.

TABLE VI.

SHOWING THE NUMBER AND CLASSIFICATION OF VOLUMES CONSULTED IN THE
REFERENCE DEPARTMENT SINCE OPENING.

TABLE.			Days open.	A	B	C	D	E	F	No. of Consult- ations.	No. of Readers.	
1st	Report,	1874	...	56	68	113	3	108	88	...	380	...
2nd	"	1875-6	...	258	84	112	14	179	223	...	612	...
3rd	"	1876-7	...	254	59	240	1	291	364	...	955	419
4th	"	1877-8	...	256	69	395	20	276	379	...	1139	542
5th	"	1878-9	...	256	121	326	6	340	718	...	1511	566
6th	"	1879-80	...	252	215	308	3	332	881	...	1739	557
7th	"	1880-1	...	210	239	224	1	222	419	...	1105	392
8th	"	1881-2	...	257	315	243	9	230	389	...	1186	196
9th	"	1882-3	...	253	209	190	3	147	275	...	824	161
10th	) Mar. 27 to Sep. 30 '83 Oct. 1 '83--Sep. 30 '84	1882-3	132	82	104	3	108	172	...	469	...	
Rept.		1882-3	256	265	171	7	163	307	...	913	...	
11th	"	1884-5	...	229	279	116	5	219	333	...	952	191
12th	"	1885-6	...	257	384	487	20	218	988	...	2097	242
13th	"	1886-7	...	253	299	341	21	311	781	...	1753	246
14th	"	1887-8	...	255	150	536	11	329	1617	...	2643	279
15th	"	1888-9	...	241	170	532	19	696	1142	...	2559	244
16th	"	1889-90	...	224	187	407	23	737	980	...	2334	162
17th	"	1890-1	...	230	42	423	21	853	619	...	1958	359
18th	"	1891-2	...	218	111	226	12	842	621	...	1812	128
19th	"	1892-3	...	231	91	163	4	443	586	...	1287	127
20th	"	1893-4	...	228	52	152	6	284	466	...	960	130
21st	"	1894-5	...	238	21	107	2	185	299	...	614	109
22nd	"	1895-6	...	257	101	64	0	178	192	...	535	88
23rd	"	1896-7	...	241	101	74	6	124	143	...	448	99
24th	"	1897-8	...	238	35	46	2	146	171	...	400	105
25th	"	1898-9	...	242	47	48	0	94	249	...	438	99
26th	"	1899-1900	...	239	15	108	13	164	196	...	496	190
27th	"	1900-1	...	238	87	625	33	306	488	...	1539	586
28th	"	1901-2	...	240	118	446	44	464	500	...	1572	779
29th	"	1902-3	...	241	243	929	71	716	615	...	2574	1532
30th	"	1903-4	...	240	175	614	44	546	533	70	1982	1088
31st	"	1904-5	...	240	141	593	63	615	578	190	2180	1050
32nd	"	1905-6	...	239	167	874	69	595	475	114	2294	1175
33rd	"	1906-7	...	220	207	930	177	775	392	227	2708	1146
TOTALS			...	7919	4949	11267	736	12236	17179	601	46968	12987

READING ROOMS.

CENTRAL.

Open from 9 a.m. to 9-30 p.m.

The average daily attendance of readers is estimated at 2000.

450 volumes are accessible to the public, for use in the Reading Room only.

BRANCH No. 1—KENRICK PARK.

Open from 9 p.m. to 9-30 p.m.

A Reading and News Room was opened at 215, Spon Lane, on the 1st January, 1883.

This Reading Room was transferred to the New Buildings, Kenrick Park, on Monday, the 28th September, 1903.

370 volumes are accessible to the public, for use in the Reading Room only.

BRANCH No. 2—HILL TOP.

Open from 9 a.m. to 9-30 p.m.

A Reading and News Room was opened on Monday, January 15th, 1883, at the Office originally occupied by Mr. F. W. Topham.

This Reading Room was transferred to the New Public Buildings, Hill Top, on Monday, the 20th June, 1898.

387 volumes are accessible to the public, for use in the Reading Room only.

BRANCH No. 3—GREET'S GREEN.

Open from 9 a.m. to 9-30 p.m.

A Reading and News Room, which was opened on Wednesday, the 17th January, 1883, at No. 1, Great Bridge, was removed to the entrance to the Recreation Ground, Greet's Green, and opened on Monday, 1st August, 1892.

260 volumes are accessible to the public, for use in the Reading Room only.

BRANCH No. 4—CHURCHFIELD.

Open from 9 a.m. to 9-30 p.m.

A Reading and News Room was opened at 56, Tenscore Street, on March 4th, 1907.

30 volumes are accessible to the public, for use in the Reading Room only.

DONATIONS OF BOOKS, Etc.

- Agent General for Natal, 26, Victoria Street, Westminster—*
Twentieth Century Impressions of Natal.
- Benbow, Mrs., Clarach, Wales—*
The Old Oak House.
- Blades, Alderman J. H., J.P., Oakhurst, West Bromwich—*
Alliance News (Weekly) to Greet's Green Branch.
- Board of Trade, Commission for Labour, 44, Parliament St., London—*
Reports as published.
- Bridge, J. H., Old Broad Street, E.C.—*
History of Carnegie Steel Company.
- Briscoe, J. P., Public Library, Nottingham—*
Curiosities of the Belfry.
Gleanings from God's Acre.
- British Museum Authorities—*
Catalogue of Cicadidæ.
Catalogue of Corals.
Catalogue of Moths
Fossil Vertebrata of the Foyun.
Guide to Reptilia Amphibia.
History of Collections. Vol. II.
Subject Index of Modern Works. 1901-1905.
- Emigrants' Information Office, 31, Broadway, Westminster—*
Handbooks respecting Emigration, chiefly to the British Colonies.
- Freeth, W., Victoria Street, West Bromwich—*
Alliance News (Weekly) to Central Reading Room.
- Iron and Steel Institute, per B. H. Brough, 28, Victoria Street, London, S.W.—*
Iron and Steel Institute Journal, 1906-7.
- Layton, Messrs. C. & E., 56, Farringdon Street, E.C.—*
Handy Newspaper List.
Insurance Register.
- Library Reports (about 200).*
- Library Catalogues (various).*
- Manley, Dr. H., M.D., New Street, West Bromwich.*
Public Health.
Manual of Bacteriology.
- Mather & Crowther, Messrs., New Bridge Street, E.C.—*
Practical Advertising, 1906-7.
- Maw & Co., Messrs, Jackfield, Shropshire—*
Catalogue of Tiling.

- Patent Office Comptroller, 25, Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane—*
 Illustrated Official Journal (Weekly).
 Abridgements of Specifications in Classes.
- Paton, Messrs. J. & J., 143, Cannon Street—*
 List of Schools, 1907.
- Pratt, E. A., London—*
 Licensed Trade.
 Licensing and Temperance.
- Publishers and Proprietors for Reading Rooms—*
 Publications are denoted by an Asterisk (*) on pages 10 and 11.
- Sherwell, G. W., Lombard Street—*
 Burgess List, 1907-8.
- Smithsonian Institution (per S. P. Langley), Washington, U.S.A.—*
 Smithsonian Institution Report, 1905.
- Tomkins, J. G., Carters Green, West Bromwich—*
 History of Carters Green Wesleyan Chapel.
- Town and Counties Directories, Ltd., Edinburgh—*
 Birmingham and Hardware District Trades Directory, 1906-7.
- University, Birmingham, per the Secretary—*
 Calendar, 1906-7.
- University, Dublin, per the Secretary—*
 Calendar and Examination Papers.
- University, Durham, per the Registrar—*
 Calendar, 1906-7.
- University Correspondence College Press, Cambridge—*
 London University Guide, 1906-7.
- West Bromwich Corporation, per A. Caddick—*
 Burgess Roll, 1906-7.
- West Bromwich Corporation, per G. W. Davis, Inspector of Weights and Measures—*
 Report for the year ending March, 1907.
- West Bromwich Corporation, per T. Hudson—*
 Abstract of Accounts for the Year ending March 31st, 1907.
- West Bromwich Corporation, per Dr. H. Manley, Medical Officer of Health—*
 Report of the Health of the County Borough.
- Whitehouse, J., Old Forge, West Bromwich—*
 History of Mining in the Black Country.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS from

To Receipts.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
---------------------	---	----	----	---	----	----

MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT.

BOROUGH RATE—

Amount of Rate Aid for the year, at One Penny in the £	837	0	0
--	-----	---	---

Central Library.

Fines	...	...	...	...	27	3	1
Membership Forms	...	...	...	...	2	15	10
Damage to Books	...	...	...	...		5	0
Books Lost by Borrowers	...	...	...	...		5	6
Sale of Papers	...	...	...	...	10	11	11
Sale of Catalogues	...	...	...	...	2	3	10
Sale of Old Books	...	...	...	...	4	16	0

Spon Lane Branch Reading Room,

Sale of Papers	1 7 7
----------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-------

Hill Top Branch Reading Room.

Sale of Papers	1 12 4
----------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	--------

Greets Green Branch Reading Room.

Sale of Papers	1 9 7
----------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-------

Churchfields Branch Reading Room.

Rent	12 0
------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

£890 2 8

1st April, 1906, to 31st March, 1907.

By Payments.

£ s. d. £ s. d.

MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT.

Central Library.

Salaries and Wages	275	15	8
Additional Books, and Books to replace those worn out	168	13	3
Bookbinding	52	18	7
Newspapers and Magazines	56	3	3
Advertising, Printing and Stationery	30	0	6
Electric Light, Current and Fittings	43	19	7
Water		14	3
Subscriptions to various Societies	2	2	0
Petty Disbursements and Sundries	43	2	6

TOWN HALL ACCOUNT—

Proportion of Coal used	10	0	0
		683	9 7

Spon Lane Branch Reading Room.

Rent, Heating and Lighting	35	0	0
Newspapers and Magazines	14	3	9
		49	3 9

Hill Top Branch Reading Room.

Newspapers and Magazines		13	0 9
---------------------------------	--	----	-----

Greets Green Branch Reading Room.

Rent, Lighting and Heating	35	0	0
Newspapers and Magazines	14	4	7
		49	4 7

Loan Charges.

Interest on Corporation Stock allocated to this Account	31	15	8
Instalment for Extinction of Corporation Stock, and Interest on Accumulations	32	1	9
		63	17 5
		858	16 1
Receipts in excess of Payments		31	6 7
		£890	2 8

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE from

ACCOUNTS.	PAYMENTS.	LIABILITIES. Incurred but not paid.		EXPENDITURE from 1st April, 1906, to 31st March, 1907.
		31st March, 1906	31st March, 1907	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Central Library ...	683 9 7	67 6 0	61 15 8	677 19 3
Spon Lane Branch ...	49 3 9	3 10 2	3 16 0	49 9 7
Hill Top Branch ...	13 0 9	3 5 7	3 9 8	13 4 10
Greets Green Branch ...	49 4 7	3 10 2	3 15 0	49 9 5
Churchfields Branch ...	...	...	15 3 7	15 3 7
Interest and Repayment of Loans ...	63 17 5	...	...	63 17 5
		77 11 11	87 19 11	
			77 11 11	
			10 8 0	
BALANCE, 31st March, 1907—				
In hands of Treasurer 1385 8 7				
Less Balance, 31st March, 1906—				
In hands of Treasurer 1354 2 0				
Receipts in excess of Payments ...	31 6 7			
Income in excess of Expenditure ...	...	...	...	20 18 7
	£890 2 8			£890 2 8

1st April, 1906, to 31st March, 1907.

[illegible]

CAPITAL

To Receipts.

£ s. d. £ s. d.

LOANS.

WEST BROMWICH CORPORATION REDEEMABLE

STOCK (First Issue)—

Amount of Stock allocated to this amount	...	1510	17	0		
Less Stock extinguished	... ...	373	6	7		
					1137	10 5

REVENUE ACCOUNT.

Contribution towards Cost of Construction	...	500	0	0		
Instalments in repayment of Loans	...	697	12	2		
					1197	12 2

EXTINCTION OF STOCK.

Loans Fund applied in extinction of Stock	...				373	6 7
					£2708	9 2

SPECIAL

NEW FREE LIBRARY

To Receipts.

£ s. d. £ s. d.

CARNEGIE GIFT—

Received to 31st March, 1906...	...	1000	0	0		
„ during year to March 31st, 1907	...	6500	0	0		
					7500	0 0

£7500 0 0

ACCOUNT.

By Payments.

	£	s.	d.
Expenditure to date	2500	0	0
Commuted Value of Interest on Mortgage for unexpired period	115	8	9
Discounts and Costs of Raising Stock	93	0	5

£2708 9 2

ACCOUNT.

BUILDING ACCOUNT.

By Payments.

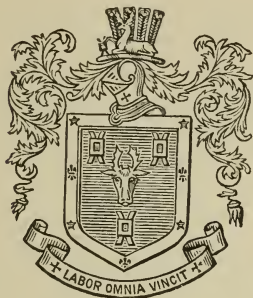
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Expenditure at 31st March, 1906 (Architect's Commission)							50	0	0			
Expenditure to 31st March, 1907—												
On Account of Building												
Contract (Contractor for erection)				6000	0	0						
Iron Staircase				150	0	0						
Heating Apparatus				275	0	0						
Incidental Expenses and Sundries					9	17						
Architect's Commission				286	17	6						
Salary of Clerk of Works	172	0	0									
Less Amount Repaid by Contractor	150	0	0									
							22	0	0			
										6743	14	8
										6793	14	8
BALANCE, 31st March, 1907—												
In hands of Treasurer										706	5	4
										£7500	0	0

BALANCE SHEET.

Liabilities.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
CAPITAL ACCOUNT.			
Loan Account—			
Redeemable Stock (First Issue) ...	1510 17 0		
<i>Less</i> Stock extinguished ...	373 6 7		
		1137 10 5	
 Excess of Assets over Liabilities, viz.—			
Contributions from Revenue towards Cost of Construction of Old Library... ..	500 0 0		
Instalments to Sinking Fund appropriated in reduction of debt prior to issue of Stock... ..	£697 12 2		
Amount of Stock cancelled as above out of accumulations for Extinction of Stock	£373 6 7		
	1070 18 9	1570 18 9	
			2708 9 2
 SPECIAL ACCOUNT.			
New Free Library—Carnegie Gift			7500 0 0
 REVENUE ACCOUNT.			
SUNDRY CREDITORS for Balances due to them ...		87 1 11	
 PRESENT SURPLUS—			
Income in excess of Expenditure for year ended 31st March, 1907 ...	20 18 7		
<i>Add</i> Income in excess of Expenditure to 31st March, 1906	1276 10 1		
	1297 8 8	1297 8 8	
			1385 8 7
 THOS. HUDSON, BOROUGH TREASURER. GUILDFORD O. HODGES, LIBRARIAN & SECRETARY.			
			11593 17 9

GEO. T. COLEMAN, F.C.A., }
CLEMENT KEYS, A.C.A., } Auditors.

County Borough of West Bromwich.



Thirty-fourth Report

OF THE

Free Library Committee.

PRESENTED TO THE TOWN COUNCIL,
November, 1908.

WEST BROMWICH:
PRINTED BY JOSEPH BATES, CAXTON WORKS, 12 AND 14, PARADISE STREET.

FORM OF BEQUEST.

I bequeath out of such part of my personal estate as may by Law be bequeathed for such purposes, to the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of West Bromwich, in the County of Staffordshire, the sum of

free from Legacy Duty, for the benefit of the Public Libraries of the said Borough, to be expended in such way as the Committee for the time being may deem expedient; and I direct that the receipt of the Treasurer for the time being of the said Borough shall be an effectual discharge for the same Legacy.

AREA, 5,860 ACRES.

POPULATION IN 1901, 65,172.

HOUSES, 14,492.

RATEABLE VALUE, £227,251 5s.

Chronological History.

- 1870 Public Libraries Act unanimously adopted, 30th November.
1873 Mr. P. D. Bennett appointed first Chairman, 7th January.
1874 D. Dickinson appointed Librarian, 13th February.
1874 Central Newsroom opened, 31st August.
1875 Lending Library opened 15th February.
1875 Reference Library opened, 15th March.
1876 Henry Williams, Esq., appointed Chairman, 21st June.
1882 Mr. C. H. Bayley, Hon. Secretary, died in November.
1882 Librarian appointed Secretary.
1883 Branch Reading Room opened, Spon Lane, 1st January.
1883 " " " Hill Top, 15th January.
1883 " " " Greets Green, 17th January.
1884 Subscription Library formed and opened, 1st January.
1891 Mr. J. Manley appointed Chairman, 18th November.
1892 Branch Reading Room at Great Bridge transferred to Farley Park, Greets Green, 1st August.
1895 Permission granted to the Science and Art Masters to borrow books from the Reference Library for the use of Students at the Institute, 18th December; cancelled, July, 1902.
1898 Branch Reading Room at Hill Top transferred to the Park at Hill Top in July.
1900 Death of Mr. D. Dickinson, 8th March. (First Librarian.)
1900 Mr. Guildford O. Hodges appointed Librarian, 6th April.
1902 Councillor H. L. Browne appointed Chairman, 12th February.
1902 Fifth Edition of Lending Library Catalogue Published, April.
1903 Spon Lane Reading Room transferred to Kenrick Park in September.
1905 Dr. Andrew Carnegie offers £7,500 for a new Library, 24th June.
1905 Dr. Andrew Carnegie's offer accepted by Town Council, 5th July.
1906 Foundation Stone of New Free Library laid, April 27th, by Councillor H. Langley Browne, M.D.
1907 Branch Reading Room opened, Churchfield, 4th March.
1907 New Central Library opened, 10th June, by His Worship the Mayor, Councillor J. E. Wilson, J.P.
1907 Reference Library "Sheaf" Catalogue Published. June.

1907-8.

Committee.

COUNCILLOR H. L. BROWNE, M.D., LL.D., CHAIRMAN.

REV. J. W. JONES, M.A., DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN.

ALDERMAN J. H. BLADES, J.P.

COUNCILLOR J. LAWLEY (MAYOR).

COUNCILLOR A. G. TURLEY.

COUNCILLOR J. ANDERSON.

MR. J. BUTLER

REV. F. A. HOMER

MR. A. CADDICK (Town Clerk)

DR. H. MANLEY, M.A., M.D.

MR. W. FREETH

MR. W. S. WATTS

MR. J. GRIFFITHS

MR. W. WITHINGTON

Book-Buying Committee.

COUNCILLOR H. L. BROWNE, M.D., LL.D.

COUNCILLOR J. LAWLEY (MAYOR).

COUNCILLOR J. ANDERSON.

MR. A. CADDICK.

REV. J. W. JONES, M.A.

DR. H. MANLEY, M.A., M.D.

Librarian and Secretary.

GUILDFORD O. HODGES.

— : o : —

ASSISTANT, CENTRAL LIBRARY, JOSEPH WOODHALL.

„ „ „ J. D. CHANCE.

CARETAKER, „ „ WILLIAM DAVIS.

Branches.

CARETAKER, No. 1—KENRICK PARK: T. KENNETT.

„ No. 2—HILL TOP: J. WHITEHOUSE.

„ No. 3—GREET'S GREEN: H. JONES.

„ No. 4—CHURCHFIELD: J. INCE.

THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

OF THE

West Bromwich Free Library.

*To the Worshipful the Mayor and Corporation of the Borough of
West Bromwich.*

GENTLEMEN,

The Committee have pleasure in presenting their Thirty-fourth Annual Report, showing the work accomplished in connection with your Public Library.

Reviewing the year's work (the first complete year in the new building), it is gratifying to find that all sections of the community are using and appreciating the improved facilities provided, particularly so by readers and students using the Lending and Reference Libraries. A perusal of the accompanying statistics will show that this year's work has been eminently satisfactory.

BOOK FUND.—A fund has been opened for the purchase of additional valuable books for the Library, chiefly for the Reference Department, with a view to aiding the limited penny rate; the fund at present has reached £65 10s.

LECTURE HALL.—The Lecture Hall has proved itself to be quite an acquisition to the town, attracting, as it has many Societies and Clubs to hold their meetings, exhibitions, classes, etc., in the building; thus a long-felt want has been provided in this way, and the excellent facilities are much admired by those who use the rooms.

RESIGNATION.—Councillor W. N. Halford having resigned his position on the Committee, Councillor J. Anderson was elected to fill the vacant place.

LENDING DEPARTMENT.

STOCK.—During the year there has been added to this department, by purchase, 133 volumes; by presentation, 5; by transfer from Subscription Library, 176; total, 314.

STOCK-TAKING.—The Libraries were closed for Stock-taking on June 29th and re-opened on July 13th.

During the year out of an issue of 71,922 volumes, it is pleasing to report no loss whatever occurred.

ISSUES.—71,922 volumes have been issued to 71,772 borrowers, giving a daily average of 298, an increase in the number of volumes issued of 5,239, as compared with the corresponding period of last year.

Of these volumes issued, 10,075 were circulated among Juvenile readers, from our Juvenile section, which covers all phases of Literature. The following are interesting figures of the number of books read by our Juvenile readers for the last five years:—1904, 6,919 vols.; 1905, 9,113 vols.; 1906, 9,443 vols.; 1907, 10,759 vols.; and 1908, 10,075 vols.; thus proving the growing interest of Juveniles in the Library.

BORROWERS' CARDS.—The number of borrowers who renewed their tickets or took out new ones during the year was 1,325, against 1,486 last year. The actual number of cards in use on 30th September, 1908, was 2,811.

CASH RECEIPTS.—The Cash Receipts for the year amounted to £78 17s. 4d., and were derived from the following sources:—

					£	s.	d.
Fines	...	...	...	...	31	15	11
Catalogues	...	...	...	...	4	3	10
Forms	...	...	...	...	5	2	7
Papers	...	...	...	...	10	2	1
Damages	...	...	...	...		1	11
Books Lost	...	...	...	...		12	6
Sale of Old Books	...	...	...	...		3	6
Hire of Lecture Hall	...	...	...	...	26	15	0
					<hr/>		
					£78	17	4

WEAR AND TEAR OF BOOKS.—96 volumes have been worn out and replaced, 164 have been re-bound, and 603 have been repaired on the premises by the Library Staff.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—By special arrangement with the Sanitary Committee, several cases of infectious disease were reported of borrowers using the Library.

In all cases the books were destroyed and replaced with new copies by the Committee, thus ensuring absolute freedom from risk in the use of the Library.

This department now consists of 11,450 volumes.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

With regard to the Reference Department, your Committee have particular pleasure in recording that the first complete year with the new accommodation and the improved facilities, as regards classification and arrangement of the books, has been a record one, both as regards the number of volumes consulted and also in the number of readers. This is very gratifying, when it is borne in mind that the whole of the books in this department are of a strictly educative character.

Several valuable works have been added during the year, and it is intended to further augment these as funds will allow.

The new “ Book Fund ” is intended to be used chiefly for this purpose. Your Committee look forward with confidence to the more increased usefulness of this growing and very important part of the Library work, where a good collection of books are now at the disposal of the public, covering all phases of literature, but particularly dealing with the staple trades of the district.

CONSULTATIONS.—3,948 volumes have been consulted by 1,771 readers, against 2,708 volumes by 1,146 readers the previous year, an increase of 1,240 volumes and 625 readers.

No record is kept of the hundreds of references made to directories, etc., in the Public Shelves in the Central Reading Room.

ADDITIONS TO STOCK.—During the year 61 volumes were added to this department, by purchase 38, by gift 23. This department now consists of 3,709 volumes.

READING ROOMS.

The Central Reading Rooms are still very popular; large crowds flock daily to read the ample supply of newspapers or consult the magazines, and the attendance in the Ladies' Reading Room is very gratifying; in the evenings its capacity is very often tested; it is no unusual sight to see every seat occupied, which indicates the popularity of the room.

The Branch Reading Rooms at Churchfield, Greets Green, Hill Top and Kenrick Park continue to be well used and appreciated, particularly the books placed in each, to which the public have free access.

MISCELLANEA.

From the financial statement for the year ending March 31st last, after having been nine months in the new building, your Committee are pleased to report a credit balance on the year's working of £35, which has only been brought about by very carefully watching expenditure, as establishment charges for Heating, Lighting, and Cleaning are much more now than they were in the Old Library.

However, with a total accumulated surplus now in hand of £133, your Committee feel confident of being able to conduct the Libraries, with all the improved facilities, with the product of the same penny rate, with this small balance in hand to help, though during the past year less books have been bought than previously.

D. C. MURRAY MEMORIAL.—Your Committee gave their consent to a Memorial being placed in the Central Library to the late David Christie Murray, a native of West Bromwich.

The Memorial is taking the form of a Tablet, privately subscribed for, and being executed under the guidance of Mr. J. A. Pearce at the local Art School.

CONCLUSION.—In reviewing the work of the past year, the Committee feel that the Institution has maintained its usefulness to residents. The members of the Library Staff have carried out their duties efficiently, and have rendered much assistance to readers by replying to the innumerable queries for information upon many varied subjects with which each day they are confronted.

ATTENDANCES.

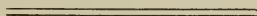
There have been eleven meetings of the Committee, the attendance of the members being as follows:—

The Mayor (Councillor J. Lawley) ...	...	5
Alderman J. H. Blades ...	...	2
Councillor H. Langley Browne (Chairman) ...	...	9
Councillor J. Anderson ...	...	8
Councillor A. G. Turley ...	...	3
Mr. J. Butler ...	...	4
Mr. Alfred Caddick ...	...	4
Mr. W. Freeth ...	...	11
Mr. J. Griffiths ...	...	6
Rev. F. A. Homer ...	...	4
Rev. J. W. Jones (Deputy Chairman) ...	...	8
Dr. Herbert Manley ...	...	8
Mr. W. S. Watts...	...	9
Mr. W. Withington ...	...	6

Signed on behalf of the Free Library Committee,

H. LANGLEY BROWNE, Chairman.

GUILDFORD O. HODGES, Librarian.



LIST OF NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES, AND PERIODICALS SUPPLIED TO THE READING ROOMS.

Those marked *a* are presented.

NAME.	CENTRAL	KENRICK PARK	HILL TOP	GREYS GREEN	CHURCHFIELD	NAME.	CENTRAL	KENRICK PARK	HILL TOP	GREYS GREEN	CHURCHFIELD
DAILY.						Evesham Journal ...	1				
Birmingham—Evening Despatch	1	1	1	1	1	Exchange and Mart ...	1				
„ Gazette ...	2	1	1	1		Fishing Gazette ...	1				
„ Mail ...	3	2	1	1	1	Garden ...			1		
„ Post ...	3	1	1	1	1	Gardening ...	1				1
Daily Graphic ...	1					Gentlewoman ...	1				
Daily Mirror ...	1					Good Words ...		1	1		
Liverpool Mercury ...	1					Graphic ...	1	1	1	1	
London—Chronicle ...	1					<i>a</i> Grocers' Review ...	1				
„ Daily Mail ...	1	1	1	1	1	Illustrated London News ...	1	1	1	1	1
„ Daily News ...	1	1	1	1	1	<i>a</i> Investors' Guardian ...	1				
„ Standard ...	1	1	1	1	1	<i>a</i> Iron and Coal Trades Review ...	1				
„ Telegraph ...	1					<i>a</i> Kidderminster Shuttle ...	1				
„ Times ...	1					„ Lady ...	1				
Manchester Guardian ...	1					„ Lady's Pictorial ...	1				
Yorkshire Post ...	1					<i>a</i> Laundry Journal ...	1				
Wolverhampton—Evening Ex- press and Star ...	1		1	1		<i>a</i> Local Government Chronicle ...	1				
WEEKLY.						<i>a</i> Local Government Journal ...	1				
<i>a</i> Alliance News ...	1			1		<i>a</i> Machinery Market Supplement ...	1				
„ Architect ...	1					<i>a</i> Midland Advertiser ...	3	1	1	1	1
„ Athenæum ...	1					<i>a</i> Midland Counties Herald ...	1				
„ Birmingham Weekly Post ...	1					„ Mining Journal ...	1				
<i>a</i> Blackpool Herald ...	1					<i>a</i> Motor Traction ...	1				
<i>a</i> Board of Trade Journal ...	1					<i>a</i> Patents (Illustrated Official Journal) ...	1				
Boys Own Paper ...		1	1			<i>a</i> Phonetic Journal ...	1	1	1	1	
Builder ...	1					„ Photography and Focus ...	1				
Building News ...	1					<i>a</i> Practical Engineer ...	1				
„ World ...				1		<i>a</i> Present Truth ...	1				
<i>a</i> Canada ...	1					„ Punch ...	1	1	1	1	
<i>a</i> Canadian Gazette ...	1					„ Queen ...	1				
„ Chums ...	1					<i>a</i> School Government Chronicle ...	1				
<i>a</i> Civil Service Aspirant ...	1					„ Shop Assistant ...	1				
<i>a</i> „ „ Competitor ...	1					<i>a</i> Smethwick Telephone ...	1				
„ Clarion ...	1					„ Spectator ...	1				
<i>a</i> Colliery Guardian ...	1					„ Sphere ...	1				
<i>a</i> Contract Journal ...	1					„ Sporting and Dramatic News ...	1				
<i>a</i> Drapers' Record ...	1			1		„ Staffordshire Advertiser ...	1				
„ Electrical Review ...	1					„ Truth ...	1				
„ Engineer ...	1	1	1			<i>a</i> Warwickshire Advertiser ...	1				
„ Engineering ...	1					<i>a</i> Wednesbury Herald ...	1				
„ English Mechanic ...	1	1	1	1	1	<i>a</i> West Bromwich Chronicle ...	3	1	1	1	1
<i>a</i> „ „ Churchman ...	1					<i>a</i> „ Free Press ...	4	1	1	1	1
„ Era ...	1					„ „ Weekly News ...	3	1	1	1	1
						<i>a</i> Wolverhampton Chronicle ...	1		1	1	
						<i>a</i> Worcester Herald ...	1				
						„ Work ...	1				1

TABLE I.

SHOWING STOCK IN LIBRARIES AND BRANCH READING ROOMS.

Lending Library.

In Stock previously	...	...	...	11211
Withdrawn	...	...	...	21
Worn out and out of print...	...	...	...	54
Volumes lost by replacement of Works in several volumes, by editions in one volume				0
Total loss ascertained out of issue of 71,922 vols.				0
				<hr/> 75
				<hr/> 11136

Added during the year:—

By Gift	...	...	...	5
„ purchase	...	...	...	133
„ transfer from Subscription Library	...	...	...	176
				<hr/> 314

Total Stock in Lending Library

 11450**Reference Library.**

In Stock previously	...	...	...	3648
Withdrawn	...	...	...	0
				<hr/> 0
				<hr/> 3648

Added during the year:—

By Gift	...	...	...	23
„ purchase	...	...	...	38
				<hr/> 61

Total Stock in Reference Library

 3709**Branch Reading Rooms.**

Kenrick Park	...	...	...	370
Hill Top	...	...	...	387
Greets Green	...	...	...	260
Churchfield	...	...	...	30
				<hr/> 1047

Total Stock.

Lending Library	...	...	...	11450
Reference Library	...	...	...	3709
Branch Reading Rooms	...	...	...	1047
Central Reading Room	...	...	...	456
				<hr/> 456

16662

TABLE II.

SHOWING THE NUMBER OF VOLUMES IN EACH CLASS IN REFERENCE
AND LENDING DEPARTMENTS.

Lending Library.

A	Theology and Philosophy	...	...	659
B	History, Biography, and Travels	...	...	2858
C	Law, Politics, and Commerce...	...	...	248
D	Science, Art, and Natural History	...	...	1003
E	Poetry and Drama	...	...	451
F	Magazines and Reviews	...	...	42
G	Fiction	...	...	4542
H	Miscellaneous Literature	...	...	668
J	Juvenile Literature...	...	...	713
K	Music	...	...	266
				———— 11450

Reference Library.

A	Theology and Philosophy	...	...	474
B	History, Biography, and Travels	...	...	925
C	Law, Politics, and Commerce...	...	...	71
D	Science, Art, and Natural History	...	...	552
E	Miscellaneous Literature, Ency- clopædias, etc.	...	...	1563
F	Poetry and Drama...	...	...	124
				———— 3709
				————— 15159

TABLE III.

Classified Return of the Volumes borrowed from the Lending Library during the Twelve Months ending Sept. 30th, 1908.

DATE.	Days open.	Theology & Philosophy.	History, Biography, and Travels.	Law, Politics and Commerce.	Science and Art.	Poetry and Drama.	Magazines and Reviews.	* Fiction.	Miscellaneous Literature.	* Juvenile Literature.	Music.	Totals.		Daily Average Volumes.	Daily Average Borrowers.
												Vols.	Bor- rowers.		
October ...	22	83	313	40	374	80	30	4232	146	917	172	6387	6376	245	244
November ...	22	95	424	79	470	97	31	4378	225	1060	219	7078	7065	322	321
December ...	21	81	368	49	410	95	27	3733	177	944	194	6078	6054	289	288
January ...	22	109	365	62	408	96	22	4541	171	1058	201	7033	7023	320	319
February ...	21	111	329	57	392	85	22	4855	171	1061	195	7278	7260	347	345
March ...	22	88	349	62	390	79	35	4469	176	972	170	6790	6776	309	308
April ...	19	77	305	60	339	71	31	4294	146	861	173	6357	6345	335	334
May ...	22	69	270	52	318	76	29	4738	142	843	145	6682	6669	304	303
June ...	14	46	192	44	217	35	16	2498	90	483	91	3712	3706	265	264
July ...	14	44	156	30	210	34	17	1999	76	461	97	3124	3120	223	222
August ...	21	69	244	48	290	59	28	3669	126	658	153	5344	5332	254	253
September ...	22	74	301	65	334	85	37	4126	131	757	149	6059	6046	275	275
Totals	242	946	3616	648	4152	892	325	47532	1777	10075	1959	71922	71772	298	297

* Time allowed for reading works of Fiction and Juvenile Literature, 7 days; all other classes, 14 days.

Occupations of Borrowers admitted to Lending Department during the Year.

Agents, Collectors, and Travellers	22	Ministers	3
Apprentices	1	Miscellaneous	61
Architects and Surveyors	4	Moulders	9
Artists	5	Musicians	9
Assistants	36	No occupations	37
Bakers and Confectioners	8	Not stated	47
Bookbinders	5	Nurses	15
Bootmakers	2	Office Boys	4
Builders	3	Painters	5
Butchers	5	Pattern-makers	12
Caretakers	2	Photographers	5
Carpenters and Joiners ...	21	Polishers	3
Cashiers	4	Post Office Employés—	
Casters	3	Males	9
Chemists	8	Females	4
Clerks and Book-keepers—		Printers	13
Males	86	Railwaymen	6
Females	39	Scholars—Boys	104
Doctors	5	" Girls	71
Drapers	6	School Teachers—Males...	28
Draughtsmen	5	" " Females	52
Dressmakers	15	Schoolmasters	10
Electricians	4	Schoolmistresses	8
Engineers and Fitters ...	32	Servants—Domestic ...	23
Glassworkers	8	Shopkeepers	15
Grocers	9	Smiths	8
Hairdressers	3	Solicitors	4
Housekeepers	24	Students	19
Ironworkers	24	Tailors	11
Labourers	5	Turners	3
Machinists	5	Typists	23
Managers	14	Warehousemen	5
Manufacturers	4	Wives and Daughters ...	261
Mechanics	4		
Milliners	15		
Miners	2		
		Total	1325

Ages of New Borrowers.

Under 14	170	50 to 55	24
14 to 20	348	55 to 60	17
20 to 25	196	60 and over	23
25 to 30	140	Not stated—Males	43
30 to 35	101	" Females	110
35 to 40	80		
40 to 45	54		
45 to 50	19	Total	1325

REFERENCE LIBRARY.

TABLE IV.

CLASSIFIED RETURNS OF VOLUMES CONSULTED IN THE REFERENCE
LIBRARY.

During the Twelve Months ending 30th September, 1908.

DATE.		Days open.	Theology and Philosophy.	History, Biogra- phy and Travels.	Law, Politics and Commerce.	Science, Art and Natural History.	Encyclopaedias, Dictionaries and Miscel. Literat re	Poetry and Drama.	Number of Con- sultations.	Number of Readers.
October ...	...	22	26	85	18	96	144	15	384	163
November ...	...	22	16	119	10	83	150	17	395	161
December ...	...	21	33	57	12	57	37	17	213	104
January ...	...	22	28	52	10	53	55	14	212	109
February ...	...	21	15	69	12	112	84	37	329	183
March ...	...	22	16	89	24	92	142	29	392	181
April ...	...	19	15	159	20	82	76	14	366	147
May ...	...	22	27	121	46	92	88	3	377	176
June ...	...	14	18	62	9	58	55	14	216	103
July ...	...	14	26	149	13	118	64	23	393	188
August ...	...	21	23	100	19	155	120	19	436	161
September ...	...	22	11	79	16	83	29	17	235	95
Totals ...	...	242	254	1141	209	1081	1044	219	3948	1771

Occupations of Readers in the Reference Library.

Accountants	5	Merchants	11
Actors	12	Miscellaneous	61
Agents, Collectors, and Travellers	75	Moulders	5
Architects and Surveyors	19	Musicians	11
Artists	20	No occupation—Males ...	41
Artists' Models	54	„ „ Females ...	43
Assistants	27	Not stated	84
Authors	3	Office Boys	6
Bakers	9	Painters	6
Brassfounders	4	Patentees	3
Builders	5	Patternmakers	15
Butchers	4	Plumbers	4
Carpenters and Joiners ...	11	Post Office Employés ...	10
Cashiers	8	Printers	13
Chemists	20	Pupil Teachers	109
Clerks and Book-keepers	112	Railwaymen	9
Clergymen and Ministers	31	Scholars	107
Doctors	7	School Masters	38
Draughtsmen	17	„ Mistresses	7
Electricians	17	„ Teachers	142
Engineers and Fitters ...	95	Science Teachers	29
Glassworkers	6	Secretaries	58
Insurance	22	Shopkeepers	22
Ironworkers	9	Solicitors	18
Jewellers	19	Students	148
Journalists	11	Tailors	9
Labourers	18	Turners	7
Machinists	14	Typists	32
Managers	18	Whitesmiths	33
Mechanics	18		
			1,771

NOTE.—3,948 volumes have been consulted by 1,771 readers, who have made a formal application in writing, but in addition to this, hundreds of references are made to Directories, Gazetteers, Newspapers, etc., of which no record is kept.

The following Newspapers are filed in the Reference Library.

West Bromwich Free Press.	West Bromwich Chronicle.
West Bromwich Weekly News.	Midland Advertiser.

Copies of the London “Times” and “Birmingham Daily Post”
are kept for three months only.

TABLE V.
Showing the Number and Classification of Volumes issued from the Lending Department since 1884.
Statistics for first ten years may be seen in earlier reports.

TABLE.	Days open.	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	K	TOTALS.		Aver. Vols.	Average Borrowers.
												Volumes.	Borrowers.		
11th Report, 1884-5	229	1047	3862	141	2081	732	5010	28802	2037	5929	*227	49868	48238	218	210
12th " 1885-6	257	1108	5240	245	2455	876	6023	39566	2412	9405	1004	68334	65738	262	256
13th " 1886-7	253	983	5067	160	2127	872	5636	39231	2268	8833	732	65909	63347	260	250
14th " 1887-8	255	912	4271	115	1998	708	5555	38497	2002	7687	674	62419	60117	244	235
15th " 1888-9	241	564	3499	166	2032	628	4754	34796	1358	9867	571	58235	56118	241	232
16th " 1889-90	224	519	2867	132	1836	586	3994	31497	1296	9020	551	52298	49637	232	221
17th " 1890-1	230	539	3174	124	1650	428	3703	33085	1199	8334	523	52762	50116	229	217
18th " 1891-2	235	457	2645	107	1531	514	3008	33203	1199	7943	613	51220	50270	217	213
19th " 1892-3	231	449	2317	167	1626	547	2763	32198	1198	7751	748	49764	47520	215	205
20th " 1893-4	228	441	2518	139	a1735	645	2879	37773	1203	8403	846	56581	54273	248	238
21st " 1894-5	238	510	2786	143	1618	626	2995	40739	1229	8906	663	60125	58229	252	244
22nd " 1895-6	257	447	2322	108	1624	538	3117	40503	995	8722	492	58868	57634	229	223
23rd " 1896-7	241	400	2093	106	1469	385	3222	36949	1018	7461	627	53730	52443	223	216
24th " 1897-8	238	335	b2024	b67	1237	b284	b2412	35218	b903	6000	666	49146	47682	207	200
25th " 1898-9	242	253	1342	45	957	162	1617	35392	667	4885	579	45899	45051	189	186
26th " 1899-1900	239	150	1336	78	783	146	772	33163	505	4652	449	42034	41379	176	173
27th " 1900-1	238	554	2758	267	2074	428	235	35080	1116	6194	970	49086	49094	209	206
28th " 1901-2	240	648	3278	519	2622	430	310	33286	1869	7038	1698	51608	51239	215	213
29th " 1902-3	241	772	3461	401	3510	517	295	38189	1820	7202	2012	58179	57879	241	240
30th " 1903-4	240	829	3687	490	4138	800	372	37134	1537	6919	2086	57992	57841	242	241
31st " 1904-5	240	768	3870	442	4244	712	311	42654	1472	9113	2145	65731	65644	274	273
32nd " 1905-6	239	733	3641	606	4011	723	254	44961	1653	9443	1917	67942	67847	284	284
33rd " 1906-7	220	775	3340	598	3985	732	324	42902	1552	10759	1816	66683	66593	303	303
34th " 1907-8	242	946	3616	648	4152	892	325	47532	1777	10075	1959	71922	71772	298	297
TOTALS	8198	30881	130016	7828	78436	25003	118377	1336185	62479	246371	24478	2060054	1921636	251	234

* Borrowers can retain Musical Works two weeks.

† Since January, 1894, the time allowed for reading Theological and Philosophical Works has been extended from one to two weeks.

a Since January, 1894, the time allowed for reading Scientific Works has been extended from one to two weeks.

b Since November, 1897, the time allowed for reading books in all classes, *excepting G and J*, has been extended to two weeks.

TABLE VI.

SHOWING THE NUMBER AND CLASSIFICATION OF VOLUMES CONSULTED
IN THE REFERENCE DEPARTMENT SINCE OPENING.

TABLE			Days, open	A	B	C	D	E	F	No. of Consultations.	No. of Readers
1st Report,	1874	...	56	68	113	3	108	88	...	380	...
2nd	1875-6	...	258	84	112	14	179	223	...	612	...
3rd	1876-7	...	254	59	240	1	291	364	..	955	419
4th	1877-8	...	256	69	395	20	276	379	...	1139	542
5th	1878-9	...	256	121	326	6	340	718	...	1511	566
6th	1879-80	...	252	215	308	3	332	881	...	1739	557
7th	1880-1	...	210	239	224	1	222	419	...	1105	392
8th	1881-2	...	257	315	243	9	230	389	...	1186	196
9th	1882-3	...	253	209	190	3	147	275	...	824	161
10th	{ Mar 27 to Sep 30 '83	...	132	82	104	3	108	172	...	469	...
Rept.	{ Oct 1 '83--Sep 30 '84	...	256	265	171	7	163	307	...	913	...
11th	1884-5	...	229	279	116	5	219	333	...	952	191
12th	1885-6	...	257	384	487	20	218	988	...	2097	242
13th	1886-7	...	253	299	341	21	311	781	...	1753	246
14th	1887-8	...	255	150	536	11	329	1617	...	2643	279
15th	1888-9	...	241	170	532	19	696	1142	...	2559	244
16th	1889-90	...	224	187	407	23	737	980	...	2334	162
17th	1890-1	...	230	42	423	21	853	619	...	1958	359
18th	1891-2	...	218	111	226	12	842	621	...	1812	128
19th	1892-3	...	231	91	163	4	443	586	...	1287	127
20th	1893-4	...	228	52	152	6	284	466	...	960	130
21st	1894-5	...	238	21	107	2	185	299	...	614	109
22nd	1895-6	...	257	101	64	0	178	192	...	535	88
23rd	1896-7	...	241	101	74	6	124	143	...	448	99
24th	1897-8	...	238	35	46	2	146	171	...	400	105
25th	1898-9	...	242	47	48	0	94	249	...	438	99
26th	1899-1900	...	239	15	108	13	164	196	...	496	190
27th	1900-1	...	238	87	625	33	306	488	...	1539	586
28th	1901-2	...	240	118	446	44	464	500	...	1572	779
29th	1902-3	...	241	243	929	71	716	615	...	2574	1532
30th	1903-4	...	240	175	614	44	546	533	70	1982	1088
31st	1904-5	...	240	141	593	63	615	578	190	2180	1050
32nd	1905-6	...	239	167	874	69	595	475	114	2294	1175
33rd	1906-7	...	220	207	930	177	775	392	227	2708	1146
34th	1907-8	...	242	254	1141	209	1081	1044	219	3948	1771
TOTALS			8161	5203	12408	945	13317	18223	820	50916	14758

READING ROOMS.

CENTRAL.

Open from 9 a.m. to 9-30 p.m.

The average daily attendance of readers is estimated at 2,000.

450 volumes are accessible to the public for use in the Reading Room only.

BRANCH No. 1—KENRICK PARK.

Open from 9 a.m. to 9-30 p.m.

A Reading and News Room was opened at 215, Spon Lane, on the 1st January, 1883.

This Reading Room was transferred to the New Buildings, Kenrick Park, on Monday, the 28th September, 1903.

370 volumes are accessible to the public, for use in the Reading Room only.

BRANCH No. 2—HILL TOP.

Open from 9 a.m. to 9-30 p.m.

A Reading and News Room was opened on Monday, January 15th, 1883, at the office originally occupied by Mr. F. W. Topham.

This Reading Room was transferred to the New Public Buildings, Hill Top, on Monday, the 20th June, 1898.

387 volumes are accessible to the public, for use in the Reading Room only.

BRANCH No. 3—GREET'S GREEN.

Open from 9 a.m. to 9-30 p.m.

A Reading and News Room, which was opened on Wednesday, the 17th January, 1883, at No. 1, Great Bridge, was removed to the entrance to the Recreation Ground, Greet's Green, and opened on Monday, 1st August, 1892.

260 volumes are accessible to the public, for use in the Reading Room only.

BRANCH No. 4—CHURCHFIELD.

Open from 9 a.m. to 9-30 p.m.

A Reading and News Room was opened at 56, Tenscore Street, on Monday, 4th March, 1907.

30 volumes are accessible to the public, for use in the Reading Room only.

DONATIONS OF BOOKS, Etc.

Bates, J., Paradise Street, West Bromwich—

West Bromwich Echo, 1879.

Bennett, Messrs., 164, Corporation Street, Birmingham—

Directory, 1907-8.

Blades, Alderman J. H., J.P., Oakhurst, West Bromwich—

Alliance News (Weekly) to Greets Green Branch.

*Board of Trade, Commission for Labour, 44, Parliament Street,
London—*

Reports as published.

British Museum Authorities—

Guide to Domesticated Animals.

Guide to Elephants.

Guide to Gallery of Fishes.

Guide to Horse Family.

Guide to Insects.

Guide to Mediæval Room.

Burch, H., Queen Street, West Bromwich—

Bull Baiting Question at West Bromwich.

Emigrants' Information Office, 31, Broadway, Westminster—

Handbooks respecting Emigration, chiefly to the British Colonies

Freeth, W., Victoria Street, West Bromwich—

Alliance News (Weekly) to Central Reading Room.

Gladstone's Trustees—

Impregnable Rock of Holy Scripture.

Homer, Rev. F.A., 71, Beeches Road, West Bromwich—

Life and Letters of E. A. Freeman. 2 volumes.

*Iron and Steel Institute, per B. H. Brough, 28, Victoria Street,
London, S.W.—*

Iron and Steel Institute Journal, 1907-8.

Layton, Messrs. C. and E., 56, Farringdon Street, E.C.—

Handy Newspaper List, 1908.

Insurance Register, 1908.

Library Reports (about 200).

Library Catalogues (various).

Lincoln, W. S., 2, Hollis Street, London, W.—

Lincoln Postage Stamp Catalogue. 2 volumes.

Stamp Collecting Notes. 2 volumes.

Macdonald, Messrs. W. and Co., Ltd., London Road, Edinburgh—

English Directory.

- Mann, J. C., 3, Thynne Street, West Bromwich—*
Journal of Chemical Society, 1903-7.
- Mather and Crowther, Messrs., New Bridge Street, E.C.—*
Practical Advertising, 1907-8.
- Patent Office Comptroller, 25, Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane—*
Illustrated Official Journal (Weekly).
- Paton, Messrs. J. and J., 143, Cannon Street—*
List of Schools, 1908.
- Publishers and Proprietors for Reading Rooms—*
Publications are denoted by an (a) on pages 10 and 11.
- Sherwell, G. W., Lombard Street—*
Burgess List, 1908-9.
- Smithsonian Institution (per S. P. Langley), Washington, U.S.A.—*
Smithsonian Institution Report, 1906.
- Stewart, R., 92, Victoria Street, London, S.W.—*
“The Royal Commission on Vivisection.”
- Town Clerk, Guildhall, London, E.C.—*
Calendar of Letter Books of the City of London.
- University, Birmingham, per the Secretary—*
Calendar, 1907-8.
- University, Dublin, per the Secretary—*
Calendar and Examination Papers.
- University, Durham, per the Registrar—*
Calendar, 1907-8.
- University, London, per the General Editor—*
Calendar and Guide, 1908.
- Upton, W. P., Grange Road, West Bromwich—*
Protestant Magazine, 1907.
- West Bromwich Corporation, per A. Caddick—*
Burgess Roll, 1907-8.
- West Bromwich Corporation, per G. W. Davis, Inspector of Weights and Measures—*
Report for the year ending March, 1908.
- West Bromwich Corporation, per T. Hudson—*
Abstract of Accounts for the year ending March 31st, 1908.
- West Bromwich Corporation, per Dr. H. Manley, Medical Officer of Health—*
Report of the Health of the County Borough.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS from

To RECEIPTS—

£ s. d. £ s. d.

MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT.

BOROUGH RATE—

Amount of Rate Aid for the year, at One

Penny in the £ 843 11 10

CENTRAL LIBRARY.

Fines	31	15	11
Membership Forms	5	2	7
Damage to Books	1	11	
Books lost by Borrowers	12	6	
Sale of Papers	10	2	1
Sale of Catalogues	4	3	10
Sale of Old Books	3	6	
Hire of Lecture Room	26	15	0
	<hr/>		
	78	17	4

SPON LANE BRANCH READING ROOM.

Sale of Papers 1 9 2

HILL TOP BRANCH READING ROOM.

Sale of Papers 1 8 7

GREET'S GREEN BRANCH READING ROOM.

Sale of Papers 1 8 3

CHURCHFIELDS BRANCH READING ROOM.

Rent	7	4	0
Sale of Papers	9	9	
	<hr/>		
	7	13	9

1st April, 1907, to 31st March, 1908.

By PAYMENTS.

£ s. d. £ s. d.

MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT.

CENTRAL LIBRARY.

Salaries and Wages	...	...	...	345	16	0	
Additional Books, and Books to replace those worn out	...	...	...	79	7	9	
Bookbinding	...	...	...	23	8	1	
Newspapers and Magazines	...	...	...	53	15	5	
Advertising, Printing and Stationery	...	...	...	34	4	11	
Electric Light, Current and Fittings	...	...	...	62	0	8	
Water	...	...	...	3	7	5	
Subscriptions to various Societies	...	...	...	2	2	0	
Uniform for Caretaker	...	...	...	2	12	6	
Petty Disbursements and Sundries	...	...	...	53	14	8	
Repairs to Old Buildings	...	...	...	13	17	0	
Furniture	...	...	...	14	17	1	
Professional Services	...	...	...	21	0	0	
Town Hall Account—Proportion of Coal used				2	10	0	712 13 6

SPON LANE BRANCH READING ROOM.

Rent, Heating and Lighting	...	...	...	35	0	0	
Newspapers and Magazines	...	...	...	15	6	11	50 6 11

HILL TOP BRANCH READING ROOM.

Newspapers and Magazines				14 3 0
--------------------------	-----	-----	-----	--	--	--	--------

GREET'S GREEN BRANCH READING ROOM.

Rent, Lighting and Heating	...	...	...	35	0	0	
Newspapers and Magazines	...	...	...	15	6	7	50 6 7

CHURCHFIELDS BRANCH READING ROOM.

Rent, Heating and Lighting	...	...	...	35	2	7	
Newspapers	...	...	...	6	17	2	
Furniture	...	...	...	5	19	0	47 18 9

LOAN CHARGES.

Interest on Corporation Stock allocated to this Account (Old Buildings)				14 17 1
---	-----	-----	-----	--	--	--	---------

890 5 10

Receipts in excess of Payments				44 3 1
--------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	--	--	--	--------

£934 8 11

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE from

ACCOUNTS	PAYMENTS	LIABILITIES INCURRED BUT NOT PAID.			EXPENDITURE from 1st April, 1907, to 31st March, 1908.
		31st March, 1907.	31st March, 1908		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Central Library	712 13 6	61 15 8	73 5 1	724 2 11	
Spon Lane Branch	50 6 11	3 16 0	3 12 4	50 3 3	
Hill Top Branch	14 3 0	3 9 8	3 5 2	13 18 6	
Greets Green Branch	50 6 7	3 15 0	3 13 7	50 5 2	
Churchfields Branch	47 18 9	15 3 7	12 9 7	45 4 9	
Interest and Repayment of Loans	14 17 1	...	...	14 17 1	
		87 19 11	96 5 9		
			87 19 11		
			8 5 10		
BALANCE, 31st March, 1909—					
£ s. d. £ s. d.					
In hands of Treasurer 229 11 8					
Less Balance 31st March, 1907—					
In hands of Treasurer 1385 8 7					
Deduct amount transferred towards cost of equipment of New Library 1200 0 0					
185 8 7					
Receipts in excess of Payments	44 3 1				
Income in excess of Expenditure ... ..	...	...	...	35 17 3	
	£934 8 11			£934 8 11	

CAPITAL

To RECEIPTS.

£ s. d. £ s. d.

LOANS.

WEST BROMWICH CORPORATION REDEEMABLE
STOCK (First Issue)—

Amount of Stock allocated to this Account ...	1510	17	0		
<i>Less</i> Stock extinguished	373	6	7		
				1137	10 5

REVENUE ACCOUNT.

Contribution towards Cost of Construction ...	500	0	0		
Instalments in repayment of Loans ...	697	12	2		
				1197	12 2

EXTINCTION OF STOCK.

Loans Fund applied in extinction of Stock ...				373	6 7
---	--	--	--	-----	-----

Transfers, extinguishing this Account, as
from 31st March, 1908—

District Fund Capital Account in respect of the Asset taken over by the Estates Com- mittee on appropriating the Old Free Library for the purposes of Public Offices				2708	9 2
				£5,416	18 4

SPECIAL

CARNEGIE LIBRARY

To RECEIPTS.

£ s. d.

ANDREW CARNEGIE, Esq., LL.D.—

Donation of full cost of building New Free Public Library	7714	16	3		
---	------	----	---	--	--

REVENUE ACCOUNT—

Appropriation of accumulated surplus of Penny Rate to defray cost of furnishing and equipping New Free Public Library	1200	0	0		
				£8,914	16 3

ACCOUNT.

BY PAYMENTS.				£	s.	d.
Expenditure to date	...	...	...	2500	0	0
Commuted Value of Interest on Mortgage for unexpired period	...	...	...	115	8	9
Discounts and Costs of Raising Stock...	...	...	...	93	0	5
Transfers, extinguishing this Account, as from 31st March, 1908—						
District Fund Capital Account in respect of the debt remaining on the Old Free Library taken over by the Estates Committee	...	...	...	1137	10	5
District Fund Redemption of Debt Account in respect of the debt redeemed on Old Free Library Account	...	...	...	1570	18	9
				<u>£5,416 18 4</u>		

ACCOUNT.



BUILDING ACCOUNT.

BY PAYMENTS.				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
NEW FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1907.									
COST OF CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT—									
Building and Foundations	...	...	...	6991	11	1			
Salary of Clerk of Works	...	...	...	204	0	0			
Architect's Commission	...	...	...	362	7	0			
Fixtures, Furniture, and Equipment	...	...	...	1356	18	2			
				<u>8914 16 3</u>					
				<u>£8,914 16 3</u>					

BALANCE SHEET—

LIABILITIES.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
SPECIAL ACCOUNT.										
TRUST ACCOUNT—										
Gift of Andrew Carnegie, Esq., LL.D., of full cost of construction of New Library		...			7714	16	3			
EXCESS OF ASSETS OVER LIABILITIES—										
Contributions from Revenue, Cost of equipment of New Library		...	...	...	1200	0	0			
								8914	16	3
REVENUE ACCOUNT.										
SUNDRY CREDITORS for balances due to them		...			96	5	9			
PRESENT SURPLUS—										
Income in excess of Expenditure to 31st March, 1907		...	1297	8	8					
Add Income in excess of Expenditure for year ended 31st March, 1908		...	35	17	3					
					1333	5	11			
Less Transfer towards cost of equipment of New Library		...	1200	0	0					
					133	5	11			
								229	11	8
THOS. HUDSON, BOROUGH TREASURER.										
GUILDFORD O. HODGES, LIBRARIAN AND SECRETARY.										
					£			9144	7	11

31st March, 1908.

ASSETS.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
SPECIAL ACCOUNT.		
NEW FREE LIBRARY BUILDINGS—		
Complete cost of construction and equipment	8914 16 3	
		
		8914 16 3
REVENUE ACCOUNT.		
SUNDRY DEBTORS for balances owing by them...	...	
BALANCE, 31st March, 1908 -- In hands of Treasurer	229 11 8	
		
		229 11 8
Audited and found correct, GEO. T. COLEMAN, F.C.A., } Auditors. CLEMENT KEYS, A.C.A., }		
	£ 9144 7 11	



County Borough
of
West Bromwich.

35th REPORT

—OF THE—

Free Library Committee.

PRESENTED TO THE TOWN COUNCIL,
NOVEMBER, 1909.

WEST BROMWICH:

PRINTED BY GREGORY & TOMKINS, 373, LOWER HIGH STREET.

FORM OF BEQUEST.

I bequeath out of such part of my personal estate as may by Law be bequeathed for such purposes, to the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of West Bromwich, in the County of Staffordshire, the sum of

free from Legacy Duty, for the benefit of the Public Libraries of the said Borough, to be expended in such way as the Committee for the time being may deem expedient ; and I direct that the receipt of the Treasurer for the time being of the said Borough shall be an effectual discharge for the same Legacy.

AREA, 5,860 ACRES.

POPULATION IN 1901, 65,172.

HOUSES, 14,924.

RATEABLE VALUE, £230,817 10s.

Chronological History.

- 1870 Public Libraries Act unanimously adopted, 30th November.
1873 Mr. P. D. Bennett appointed first Chairman, 7th January.
1874 D. Dickinson appointed Librarian, 13th February.
1874 Central Newsroom opened, 31st August.
1875 Lending Library opened, 15th February.
1875 Reference Library opened, 15th March.
1876 Henry Williams, Esq., appointed Chairman, 21st June.
1882 Mr. C. H. Bayley, Hon. Secretary, died in November.
1882 Librarian appointed Secretary.
1883 Branch Reading Room opened, Spon Lane, 1st January.
1883 " " " Hill Top, 15th January.
1883 " " " Greets Green, 17th January.
1884 Subscription Library formed and opened, 1st January.
1891 Mr. J. Manley appointed Chairman, 18th November.
1892 Branch Reading Room at Great Bridge transferred to Farley Park, Greets Green, 1st August.
1895 Permission granted to the Science and Art Masters to borrow books from the Reference Library for the use of Students at the Institute, 18th December; cancelled, July, 1902.
1898 Branch Reading Room at Hill Top transferred to the Park at Hill Top in July.
1900 Death of Mr. D. Dickinson, 8th March. (First Librarian).
1900 Mr. Guildford O. Hodges appointed Librarian, 6th April.
1902 Councillor H. L. Browne appointed Chairman, 12th February.
1902 Fifth Edition of Lending Library Catalogue Published, April.
1903 Spon Lane Reading Room transferred to Kenrick Park in September.
1905 Dr. Andrew Carnegie offers £7,500 for a new Library, 24th June.
1905 Dr. Andrew Carnegie's offer accepted by Town Council, 5th July.
1906 Foundation Stone of New Free Library laid, April 27th, by Councillor H. Langley Browne, M.D.
1907 Branch Reading Room opened, Churchfield, 4th March.
1907 New Central Library opened 10th June, by His Worship the Mayor, Councillor J. E. Wilson, J.P.
1907 Reference Library "Sheaf" Catalogue Published. June.
1908 Memorial Tablet to D. C. Murray, erected December.
1909 Sixth Edition of Lending Library Catalogue, Published; also Juvenile Catalogue.
1909 First Mural Decoration fixed September, the gift of John Spencer, Esq., J.P.

1908-9.

Committee.

COUNCILLOR H. L. BROWNE, M.D., LL.D. (CHAIRMAN).
REV. J. W. JONES, M.A. (DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN).
ALDERMAN J. H. BLADES, J.P.
COUNCILLOR J. LAWLEY (MAYOR).
COUNCILLOR A. G. TURLEY.
COUNCILLOR J. ANDERSON.

MR. J. BUTLER	REV. F. A. HOLMER
MR. A. CADDICK (TOWN CLERK)	DR. H. MANLEY, M.A., M.D.
MR. W. FREETH	MR. W. S. WATTS
MR. J. GRIFFITHS	MR. W. WITHINGTON

—:—

Book-Buying Committee.

COUNCILLOR H. L. BROWNE, M.D., LL.D.
COUNCILLOR J. LAWLEY (MAYOR).
COUNCILLOR J. ANDERSON.
MR. A. CADDICK
REV. J. W. JONES, M.A.
DR. H. MANLEY, M.A., M.D.

—:—

Librarian and Secretary.

GUILDFORD O. HODGES.

—:—

ASSISTANT, CENTRAL LIBRARY,	JOSEPH WOODHALL.
”	”
”	J. D. CHANCE.
CARETAKER,	”
”	WILLIAM DAVIS.

—:—

Branches.

CARETAKER,	No. 1—KENRICK PARK:	T. KENNETT.
”	No. 2—HILL TOP:	J. WHITEHOUSE.
”	No. 3—GREET'S GREEN:	H. JONES.
”	No. 4—CHURCHFIELD:	W. POWELL.

THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE COMMITTEE
OF THE
West Bromwich Free Library.

*To the Worshipful the Mayor and Corporation of the Borough of
West Bromwich.*

GENTLEMEN,

The Committee have pleasure in presenting their Thirty-fifth Annual Report, showing the work accomplished in connection with your Public Library.

The past year has been one of great activity and continued usefulness, and the inhabitants of West Bromwich may well feel proud of their new Public Library, for the great advantage of having a store-house of learning and delight at hand, always ready to be consulted, is being more and more appreciated.

One of the chief objects which the Committee have in view is to make the Public Library a central bureau of information for the town. A perusal of the following report will show that this year's work has been eminently satisfactory.

LENDING DEPARTMENT.

Stock.—During the year there has been added to this department, by purchase, 134 volumes ; by presentation, 5 ; by transfer from Subscription Library, 117 ; total, 256.

Stock-taking.—The Libraries were closed for Stock-taking on July 1st, and re-opened on July 19th.

During the year out of an issue of 72,693 volumes, it is gratifying to report no loss whatever occurred.

Issues.—72,693 volumes have been issued to 72,470 borrowers, giving a daily average of 307, an increase of 9 in the daily average, and an increase in the number of volumes issued of 771.

Of these volumes issued, 11,497 were circulated among Juvenile readers, from the Juvenile section, which covers all phases of Literature. The following are interesting figures of the number of books read by our Juvenile readers for the last six years:—1904, 6,919 vols.; 1905, 9,113 vols.; 1906, 9,443 vols.; 1907, 10,759 vols.; 1908, 10,075 vols.; and 1909, 11,497 vols., which proves the growing interest of Juveniles in the Library.

Borrowers' Cards.—The number of borrowers who renewed their tickets or took out new ones during the year was 1,338, against 1,325 last year. The actual number of cards in use on 30th September, 1909, was 2,663.

Cash Receipts.—The Cash Receipts for the year amounted to £104 5s. 7d., an increase of £25 8s. 3d. on the previous year's figures, chiefly due to the more frequent letting of the Lecture Hall.

Catalogues.—A complete Catalogue of the Lending Library, also a Catalogue of "Books for the Young," was published in May. Both were necessary and have been highly appreciated.

Wear and Tear of Books.—285 volumes have been worn out and replaced, 320 have been re-bound, and 803 have been repaired on the premises by the Library Staff.

Infectious Disease.—By special arrangement with the Sanitary Committee, several cases of infectious disease were reported of borrowers using the Library.

In all cases the books were destroyed and replaced with new copies by the Committee, thus ensuring absolute freedom from risk in the use of the Library.

This department now consists of 11,592 volumes.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

Your Committee are pleased to report the continued progress of this department. The previous year's consultations constituted a record in books and readers, and the past year shows a good record too, although a slight decrease. When it is borne in mind that the whole of the books in this department are of a strictly educative character, it is particularly gratifying.

Consultations.—3,675 volumes were consulted by 1,589 readers, against 3,948 volumes by 1771 readers the previous year, a decrease of 273 volumes and 182 readers.

No record is kept of the hundreds of references made to directories, year books, calendars, etc., which are upon the Public Shelves in the Central Reading Room.

Stock.—During the year 69 volumes were added to this department, by purchase, 54, by gift, 15. This department now consists of 3,778 volumes.

READING ROOMS.

The Central Reading Rooms are still very popular; large crowds flock daily to read the ample supply of newspapers or consult the magazines, and the attendance in the Ladies' Reading Room is very gratifying; in the evenings its capacity is very often tested; it is no unusual sight to see every seat occupied, which indicates the popularity of the room.

The Branch Reading Rooms at Churchfield, Greets Green, Hill Top, and Kenrick Park, continue to be well used and appreciated, particularly the books placed in each, to which the public have free access.

MISCELLANEA.

D. C. Murray Memorial.—A Memorial to the late David Christie Murray was unveiled in the Central Hall, on December 3rd, 1908, by His Worship the Mayor (Councillor J. Lawley, J.P.) The tablet is a copper one, with a pewter medallion, framed in oak, executed at the local Art School. (An illustration appears in this report). The Memorial was privately subscribed for.

Mural Decoration.—The Mural Decoration (illustration of which appears in this report) placed in the Central Hall of the Library, is the gift of John Spencer, Esq., of Handsworth, and was painted by W. Grant Murray, A.R.C.A. Lond., Director of Art, Swansea, formerly at the Ryland Memorial School, West Bromwich. The subject is "Literature Enthroned;" the central figure symbolical of Literature, with two figures, youth and age, in reverent attitude at her feet.

Wild Flower Stand.—In April, 1909, permission was given to the West Bromwich Naturalist Association to place a stand for Wild Flowers in the Central Hall. The contents of the Stand were constantly changed, and exhibited to the users of the Library a living panorama of the wild flowers of the district.

The Stand excited much enthusiasm and interest, as was obvious from the large quantities of wild flowers that were constantly being brought in. The experiment was certainly a success, and will probably be continued next year.

Lecture Hall.—The Hall has proved itself very popular, attracting various societies, etc., to hold their meetings, exhibitions, concerts, etc., and was much used, especially during the winter months.

Conclusion.—In reviewing the work of the past year, the Committee feel that the Institution has maintained its usefulness to residents. The members of the Library Staff have carried out their duties efficiently, and have rendered much assistance to readers by replying to the innumerable queries for information upon many varied subjects with which each day they are confronted.

ATTENDANCES.

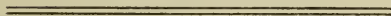
There have been eleven meetings of the Committee, the attendance of the members being as follows :—

The Mayor (Councillor J. Lawley)	3
Alderman J. H. Blades	2
Councillor H. Langley Browne (Chairman) ...	7
Councillor J. Anderson	9
Councillor A. G. Turley	5
Mr. J. Butler	9
Mr. Alfred Caddick	1
Mr. W. Freeth	10
Mr. J. Griffiths	4
Rev. F. A. Holmer	3
Rev. J. W. Jones (Deputy Chairman) ...	7
Dr. Herbert Manley	6
Mr. W. S. Watts	5
Mr. W. Withington	10

Signed on behalf of the Free Library Committee,

H. LANGLEY BROWNE, Chairman.

GUILDFORD O. HODGES, Librarian.



LIST OF NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES, AND PERIODICALS SUPPLIED TO THE READING ROOMS.

Those marked *a* are presented.

NAME.	CENTRAL.	KENRICK PARK.	HILL TOP.	GREEN.	CHURCHFIELD.	NAME.	CENTRAL.	KENRICK PARK.	HILL TOP.	GREEN.	CHURCHFIELD.
DAILY.						<i>a</i> Evesham Journal ...	1				
Birmingham—Evening Despatch	1	1	1	1	1	Exchange and Mart ...	1				
„ Gazette ...	2	1	1	1	1	Fishing Gazette ...	1				
„ Mail ...	3	2	1	1	1	Garden ...			1		
„ Post ...	3	1	1	1	1	Gardening ...	1				1
Daily Mirror ...	1					Gentlewoman ...	1				
Daily Sketch ...	1					Glasgow Herald ...	1				
Liverpool Mercury ...	1					Good Words ...		1	1		
London—Chronicle ...	1			1		Graphic ...	1	1	1	1	
„ Daily Mail ...	1	1	1	1	1	<i>a</i> Grocers' Review ...	1				
„ Daily News ...	1	1	1	1	1	Illustrated London News...	1	1	1	1	1
„ Standard ...	1	1	1	1	1	<i>a</i> Investors' Guardian ...	1				
„ Telegraph ...	1		1			<i>a</i> Iron and Coal Trades Review	1				
„ Times ...	1					<i>a</i> Kidderminster Shuttle ...	1				
Manchester Guardian ...	1					<i>a</i> Labour Leader ...	1				
Yorkshire Post ...	1					Lady ...	1				
Wolverhampton—Evening Ex- press and Star ...	1		1	1		Lady's Pictorial ...	1				
WEEKLY.						<i>a</i> Local Government Chronicle	1				
<i>a</i> Alliance News ...				1		<i>a</i> Local Government Journal	1				
Amateur Photographer, ...	1					<i>a</i> Machinery Market ...	1				
Architect ...	1					<i>a</i> Midland Advertiser ...	3	1	1	1	1
Athenæum... ..	1					<i>a</i> Midland Counties Herald	1				
Birmingham Weekly Mercury	1					Mining Journal ...	1				
<i>a</i> Blackpool Herald ...	1					<i>a</i> Motor Traction ...	1				
<i>a</i> Board of Trade Journal ...	1					<i>a</i> Patents (Illustrated Official Journal) ...	1				
Bookseller ...	1					<i>a</i> Phonetic Journal ...	1	1	1	1	
Boys Own Paper ...	1	1		1		Photography and Focus ...	1				
Builder ...	1					<i>a</i> Practical Engineer ...	1				
Building News ...	1					<i>a</i> Present Truth ...	1				
„ World ...				1		Punch ...	1	1	1	1	
<i>a</i> Canada ...	1					Queen ...	1				
<i>a</i> Canadian Gazette... ..	1					<i>a</i> School Government Chronicle	1				
<i>a</i> Civil Service Aspirant ...	1					<i>a</i> Smethwick Telephone ...	1				
<i>a</i> „ „ Competitor ...	1		1			Spectator ...	1				
Clarion ...	1					Sphere ...	1				
<i>a</i> Colliery Guardian ...	1					Sporting and Dramatic News	1				
<i>a</i> Contract Journal ...	1					Staffordshire Advertiser ..	1				
<i>a</i> Drapers' Record ...	1		1			Truth ...	1				
<i>a</i> Dudley Herald ...	1					<i>a</i> Warwickshire Advertiser...	1				
Electrical Review ...	1					<i>a</i> Wednesbury Herald ...	1				
Engineer ...	1	1		1		<i>a</i> West Bromwich Chronicle	3	1	1	1	1
Engineering ...	1					<i>a</i> „ „ Free Press ...	4	1	1	1	1
English Mechanic ...	1	1	1	1	1	<i>a</i> „ „ Weekly News ...	3	1	1	1	1
<i>a</i> „ Churchman ...	1					<i>a</i> Wolverhampton Chronicle	1		1	1	
Era ...	1					<i>a</i> Worcester Herald...	1				
						Work ...	1				1

NAME.

CENTRAL.
KENRICK PARK.
HILL TOP.
GREET'S GREEN.
CHURCHFIELD.

MONTHLY.

<i>a</i> Agricultural Economist ...	...	1				
<i>a</i> Animals Friend ...	...	1				
<i>a</i> Arbitrator ...	...	1	1	1	1	1
Art Journal ...	...	1	1			
Band of Hope ...	...	1	1	1	1	
<i>a</i> Britain's Opium Harvest	...	1				
British Workman ...	...	1	1	1	1	
Captain ...	...	1				1
Cassell's Magazine ...	...	1	1	1	1	1
Century Magazine (Scribner)	...	1	1			
<i>a</i> Certificate Examiner ...	...	1				
Chambers' Journal ...	...	1	1	1	1	1
<i>a</i> Child's Guardian ...	...	1				
<i>a</i> Church Gazette ...	...	1				
<i>a</i> Clerk of Works Journal ...	...	1				
<i>a</i> Conservative Unionist ...	...	1				
Contemporary Review ...	...	1				
<i>a</i> Deceased Seamen ...	...	2				
<i>a</i> Educational Times ...	...	1				
English Illustrated ...	...	1	1		1	
<i>a</i> Foresters' Review ...	...	1				
Fortnightly Review ...	...	1				
Girls' Own Paper... ..	...	1				
<i>a</i> G.W.R. Magazine ...	...	1				
Harper's Magazine ...	...	1				
<i>a</i> Herald of the Cross ...	...	1				
<i>a</i> Herald of the Golden Age	...	1				
<i>a</i> Herald of Health ...	...	1				
<i>a</i> Home ...	...	1				
<i>a</i> India ...	...	1				
<i>a</i> Individualist ...	...	1				
<i>a</i> Insurance Agents' Review	...	1				
<i>a</i> Labour Gazette ...	...	1			1	
Lady's World ...	...	1				
Macfadden's Magazine ...	...	1				
<i>a</i> Musical Herald ...	...	1				
National Review ...	...	1				
<i>a</i> New Church Magazine ...	...	1				
Nineteenth Century ...	...	1				
<i>a</i> Nursing Notes ...	...	1				
<i>a</i> Patents ...	...	1				
<i>a</i> Positivist Review... ..	...	1				
Quiver ...	...	1			1	
<i>a</i> Railway Clerk ...	...	1				

NAME.

CENTRAL.
KENRICK PARK.
HILL TOP.
GREET'S GREEN.
CHURCHFIELD.

Railway Time Tables—

Bradshaw's Guide ...	...	1				
<i>a</i> Caledonian ...	...	1				
<i>a</i> Cambrian ...	...	1				
<i>a</i> Cook's Excursionist ...	...	1				
<i>a</i> Glasgow and South-Western	...	1				
<i>a</i> Great Eastern Continental	...	1				
<i>a</i> Great Northern ...	...	1				
<i>a</i> Great Western ...	...	1				
<i>a</i> Lancashire and Yorkshire	...	1				
<i>a</i> London and North-Western...	...	1				
<i>a</i> Midland ...	...	1				
<i>a</i> North British ...	...	1				
<i>a</i> North Eastern ...	...	1				
<i>a</i> White and Pike ...	...				1	
<i>a</i> Rechabite Magazine ...	...	1				
Review of Reviews ...	...	1				
St. Nicholas ...	...	1				
<i>a</i> State Correspondent ...	...	1				
Strand Magazine ...	...	1	1	1	1	
<i>a</i> Students' Journal ...	...	1				
Sunday at Home ...	...	1	1	1		
<i>a</i> Sunday Closing Reporter	...	1				
<i>a</i> Vaccination Inquirer ...	...	1				
<i>a</i> Vegetarian Messenger ...	...	1				
<i>a</i> Vulcan ...	...	1				
<i>a</i> White Ribbon ...	...	1				
Windsor Magazine ...	...	1	1			
World and His Wife ...	...	1	1	1	1	1
Woman at Home... ..	...					1
Young Man ...	...					1
<i>a</i> Zoophilist ...	...	1	1	1	1	1

QUARTERLY.

<i>a</i> Bird Notes and News ...	...	1				
<i>a</i> Englishwoman's Review	...	1				
Hibbert Journal ...	...	1				
<i>a</i> Men's Magazine ...	...	1				

AS PUBLISHED.

<i>a</i> Anti-Slavery Report ...	...	1				
<i>a</i> Civil Service Candidate	...	1				
<i>a</i> Emigration Circulars ...	20	1	1	1	1	1
<i>a</i> Queensland Mining Journal	...	1				
<i>a</i> University Correspondent	...	1				

TABLE I.

SHOWING STOCK IN LIBRARIES AND BRANCH READING ROOMS.

Lending Library.

In Stock previously	...	...	...	11450
Withdrawn	...	...	...	68
Worn out and out of print	...	...	...	46
Volumes lost by replacement of Works in several volumes, by editions in one volume	...	...	...	0
Total loss ascertained out of issue of 72,693 vols.	...	...	...	0
				<hr/> 114
				<hr/> 11336

Added during the year :—

By Gift	...	...	...	5
„ purchase	...	...	...	134
„ transfer from Subscription Library	...	...	...	117
				<hr/> 256

Total Stock in Lending Library

 11592**Reference Library.**

In Stock previously	...	...	...	3709
Withdrawn	...	...	...	0
				<hr/> 0
				<hr/> 3709

Added during the year :—

By Gift	...	...	...	15
„ purchase	...	...	...	54
				<hr/> 69

Total Stock in Reference Library

 3778**Branch Reading Rooms.**

Kenrick Park	...	...	...	370
Hill Top	...	...	...	387
Greets Green	...	...	...	260
Churchfield	...	...	...	30
				<hr/> 1047

Total Stock.

Lending Library	...	...	...	11592
Reference Library	...	...	...	3778
Branch Reading Rooms	...	...	...	1047
Central Reading Room	...	...	...	428
				<hr/> 428

16845

TABLE II.

SHOWING THE NUMBER OF VOLUMES IN EACH CLASS IN REFERENCE
AND LENDING DEPARTMENTS.

Lending Library.

A	Theology and Philosophy	...	...	660
B	History, Biography, and Travels	...	...	2859
C	Law, Politics, and Commerce	...	...	250
D	Science, Art, and Natural History	...	...	1013
E	Poetry and Drama	...	...	453
F	Magazines and Reviews	...	...	42
G	Fiction	...	...	4642
H	Miscellaneous Literature	...	...	664
J	Juvenile Literature	...	...	739
K	Music	...	...	270
				<hr/> 11592

Reference Library.

A	Theology and Philosophy	...	...	474
B	History, Biography, and Travels	...	...	946
C	Law, Politics, and Commerce	...	...	75
D	Science, Art, and Natural History	...	...	579
E	Miscellaneous Literature, Encyclo- pædias, etc.	...	...	1580
F	Poetry and Drama	...	...	124
				<hr/> 3778
				<hr/> 15370

TABLE III.

Classified Return of the Volumes borrowed from the Lending Library during the Twelve Months ending Sept. 30th, 1909.

DATE.	Days open	Theology & Philosophy	History, Biography, and Travels	Law, Politics, & Commerce	Science and Art.	Poetry and Drama.	Magazines and Reviews.	*Fiction.	Miscellaneous Literature.	*Juvenile Literature.	Music.	Totals.		Daily Average Volumes.	Daily Average Borrowers
												Vols.	Borrowers		
October ...	22	77	349	69	388	89	29	4515	148	941	188	6793	6774	309	308
November ...	21	91	361	66	897	96	32	3984	170	984	201	6382	6368	304	303
December ...	20	69	330	67	371	81	33	3624	171	915	212	5873	5866	294	293
January ..	22	66	331	56	401	84	35	4878	120	1099	163	7233	7222	329	328
February ...	20	82	289	22	353	56	23	4522	108	1091	133	6679	6633	334	332
March ...	23	138	347	46	471	71	44	4776	162	1410	204	7669	7652	333	333
April ...	19	111	331	53	389	74	24	4262	178	1123	201	6746	6733	355	354
May ...	21	91	351	57	363	84	22	4455	152	1124	158	6857	6842	326	326
June ...	17	59	245	39	298	48	13	3102	125	755	114	4798	4792	282	282
July ...	10	37	131	36	150	42	10	1599	68	391	72	2536	2526	254	253
August ...	21	84	260	59	312	62	16	3275	135	811	147	5161	5144	246	245
September ...	21	75	304	58	379	78	20	3919	142	853	138	5966	5918	284	282
Totals ...	237	980	3629	628	4272	865	301	46911	1679	11497	1931	72693	72470	307	306

*Time allowed for reading works of Fiction and Juvenile Literature, 7 days; all other classes, 14 days.

Occupations of Borrowers admitted to Lending Department during the Year.

Actress	1	Milliners	10
Agents, Collectors, and Travellers	19	Miners	7
Analysts	3	Ministers	8
Apprentices	6	Miscellaneous	44
Architects and Surveyors	4	Moulders	15
Artists	6	Musicians	5
Assistants	40	No occupations	44
Bakers and Confectioners	4	Not stated	43
Bookbinders	12	Nurses	4
Bootmakers	3	Office Boys	14
Builders	7	Packers	3
Butchers	3	Painters	13
Caretakers	2	Patternmakers... ..	3
Carpenters and Joiners	10	Photographers	3
Cashiers	8	Polishers	4
Castors	5	Post Office Employees—	
Chemists	4	Males	3
Clerks and Book-keepers—		Females	3
Males	102	Printers	16
Females	18	Railwaymen	4
Doctors	3	Scholars—Boys	78
Drapers	8	„ Girls	50
Draughtsmen	11	School Teachers—Males	25
Dressmakers	19	„ „ Females	59
Electricians	8	„ Masters	10
Engineers and Fitters	38	„ Mistresses	7
Glassworkers	8	Servants—Domestic	13
Grocers	7	Shopkeepers	14
Hairdressers	6	Smiths	7
Housekeepers	11	Solicitors	4
Inspectors	4	Students	34
Ironworkers	21	Tailors	9
Labourers	8	Turners	5
Machinists	7	Typists	14
Managers	10	Warehousemen	6
Manufacturers... ..	3	Wives and Daughters	322
Mechanics	4		
Merchants	2		
		Total	1338

Ages of New Borrowers.

Under 14	145	35 to 40	67	60 and over	23
14 to 20	384	40 to 45	51	Not stated—Males	36
20 to 25	200	45 to 50	28	„ Females	118
25 to 30	130	50 to 55	16		
30 to 35	126	55 to 60	14	Total	1338

REFERENCE LIBRARY.

TABLE IV.

CLASSIFIED RETURNS OF VOLUMES CONSULTED IN THE REFERENCE
LIBRARY.

During the Twelve Months ending 30th September, 1909.

DATE.	Days open.	Theology and Philosophy.	History, Biogra- phy and Travels.	Law, Politics, and Commerce.	Science, Art, and Natural History.	Encyclopædias, Dictionaries and Miscel. Literature.	Poetry and Drama.	Number of Con- sultations.	Number of Readers.
October ...	22	16	67	16	110	118	16	343	180
November ...	21	9	56	10	55	145	21	296	110
December ...	20	15	118	19	85	214	20	471	166
January ...	22	23	77	21	101	69	21	312	152
February ...	20	28	54	16	52	115	4	269	155
March ...	23	22	39	11	92	125	13	302	154
April ...	19	32	102	19	142	60	23	378	149
May ...	21	12	66	16	66	73	9	242	90
June ...	17	4	77	24	46	30	16	197	93
July ...	10	3	27	34	41	27	7	139	69
August ...	21	58	109	8	137	84	20	416	130
September ...	21	14	91	19	109	37	40	310	141
Totals ...	237	236	883	213	1086	1097	210	3675	1589



This Illustration is of a Mural Decoration in the Hall of the Central Library, executed by W. Grant Murray, A.R.C.A., and the entire cost defrayed by JOHN SPENCER, ESQ., of Handsworth.

Similar gifts to this would be heartily welcomed by the Committee.

It is hoped that before long all the walls in the Central Hall will be covered with beautiful paintings.



DAVID CHRISTIE MURRAY MEMORIAL.
Unveiled by His Worship the Mayor (Councillor J. Lawley, J.P.),
December 3rd, 1908.



LENDING LIBRARY COUNTER AND PUBLIC CORRIDOR.

Occupations of Readers in the Reference Library.

Accountants	7	Mechanics	10
Actors	7	Merchants	10
Advertisers	11	Miners	6
Agents, Collectors, and Travellers	70	Miscellaneous	38
Architects and Surveyors	6	Moulders	23
Artists	23	Musicians	11
Artists' Models	4	No occupation—Males ...	46
Assistants	23	„ „ Females ...	13
Authors	3	Not stated	131
Bakers	11	Nurses	31
Brassfounders	9	Office Boys	6
Builders	10	Painters	12
Butchers	8	Patentees	5
Carpenters and Joiners ...	9	Patternmakers... ..	8
Cashiers	14	Plumbers	11
Chemists	21	Post Office Employees ...	8
Clerks and Book-keepers	112	Printers	46
Clergymen and Ministers	33	Pupil Teachers	36
Doctors, Surgeons, etc. ...	17	Railwaymen	10
Draughtsmen	18	Scholars	84
Editors	5	School Masters	57
Electricians	18	„ Mistresses	4
Engineers and Fitters ...	68	„ Teachers	112
Glassworkers	9	Science Teachers	62
Inspectors	11	Secretaries	11
Insurance	11	Shopkeepers	33
Ironworkers	21	Solicitors	6
Jewellers	6	Students	86
Journalists	26	Tailors	7
Labourers	19	Turners	11
Machinists	11	Typists	6
Managers	8	Whitesmiths	6
Masons	14		
		Total	1589

NOTE.—3,675 volumes have been consulted by 1,589 readers, who have made a formal application in writing, but in addition to this, hundreds of References are made to Directories, Gazetteers, Newspapers, etc., of which no record is kept.

The following Newspapers are filed in the Reference Library.

West Bromwich Free Press
West Bromwich Weekly News

West Bromwich Chronicle
Midland Advertiser

Copies of the London "Times" and "Birmingham Daily Post" are kept for three months only.

TABLE V.

Showing the Number and Classification of Volumes issued from the Lending Department since 1884.
Statistics for first ten years may be seen in earlier reports.

TABLE.	Dayz Open.	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	K	TOTALS.		Aver. Vols.	Aver. Bor.
												Volumes	Bor'ers		
11th Report, 1884-5	229	1047	3862	141	2081	732	5010	28802	2037	5929	*227	49868	48238	218	210
12th " 1885-6	257	1108	5240	245	2455	876	6023	39566	2412	9405	1004	68334	65738	262	256
13th " 1886-7	253	983	5067	160	2127	872	5636	39231	2268	8833	732	65909	63347	260	250
14th " 1887-8	255	912	4271	115	1998	708	5555	38497	2002	7687	674	62419	60117	244	235
15th " 1888-9	241	564	3499	166	2032	628	4754	24796	1358	9867	571	58235	56118	241	232
16th " 1889-90	224	519	2867	132	1836	586	3994	31497	1296	9020	551	52298	49637	232	221
17th " 1890-1	230	539	3174	124	1650	428	3702	33085	1202	8334	523	52762	50116	229	217
18th " 1891-2	235	457	2645	107	1531	514	3008	33203	1199	7943	613	51226	50270	217	213
19th " 1892-3	231	449	2317	167	1626	547	2765	32198	1198	7751	748	49764	47520	215	205
20th " 1893-4	228	441	2518	139	1735	645	2879	37773	1203	8403	846	56581	54273	248	238
21st " 1894-5	238	510	2786	143	1618	626	2905	40739	1229	8906	663	60125	58229	252	244
22nd " 1895-6	257	447	2322	108	1624	538	3117	40503	995	8722	492	58868	57634	229	223
23rd " 1896-7	241	400	2093	106	1469	385	3222	36949	1018	7461	627	53730	52443	223	216
24th " 1897-8	238	335	2024	67	1237	6284	2412	35218	2903	6000	666	49146	47682	207	200
25th " 1898-9	242	253	1342	45	957	162	1617	35392	667	4885	575	45899	45051	189	186
26th " 1899-1900	239	150	1336	78	783	146	772	33163	505	4652	449	42034	41379	176	173
27th " 1900-1	238	554	2758	267	2074	428	235	35080	1116	6194	970	49686	49094	209	206
28th " 1901-2	240	648	3278	519	2622	430	316	33286	1869	7038	1608	51608	51239	211	213
29th " 1902-3	241	772	3461	401	3510	517	295	38189	1820	7202	2012	58179	57879	241	240
30th " 1903-4	240	829	3687	490	4138	800	372	37134	1537	6919	2086	57992	57841	242	241
31st " 1904-5	240	768	3870	442	4244	712	311	42654	1472	9113	2145	65731	65644	274	273
32nd " 1905-6	239	733	3641	606	4011	723	254	44961	1653	9443	1917	67942	67847	284	284
33rd " 1906-7	220	775	3340	598	3985	732	224	42902	1552	10759	1816	66683	66593	303	303
34th " 1907-8	242	946	3616	648	4152	892	325	47532	1777	10075	1959	71922	71772	298	297
35th " 1908-9	237	980	3629	628	4272	865	301	46911	1679	11497	1931	72693	72470	307	306
TOTALS	8435	31861	133645	8456	82708	25868	118678	1383096	64158	257868	264092	132747	1994106	253	236

* Borrowers can retain Musical Works two weeks.

† Since January, 1894, the time allowed for reading Theological and Philosophical Works has been extended from one to two weeks.

‡ Since January, 1894, the time allowed for reading Scientific Works has been extended from one to two weeks.

§ Since November, 1897, the time allowed for reading books in all classes, EXCEPTING G & J, has been extended to two weeks.

TABLE VI.

SHOWING THE NUMBER AND CLASSIFICATION OF VOLUMES CONSULTED
IN THE REFERENCE DEPARTMENT SINCE OPENING.

TABLE.		Days open	A	B	C	D	E	F	No. of Consultations.	No. of Readers
1st Report, 1874 ...	...	56	68	113	3	108	88	...	380	...
2nd " 1875-6 ...	...	258	84	112	14	179	223	...	612	...
3rd " 1876-7 ...	...	254	59	240	1	291	364	...	955	419
4th " 1877-8 ...	...	256	69	395	20	276	379	...	1139	542
5th " 1878-9 ...	...	256	121	326	6	340	718	...	1511	566
6th " 1879-80 ...	...	252	215	308	3	332	881	...	1739	557
7th " 1880-1 ...	...	210	239	224	1	222	419	...	1105	392
8th " 1881-2 ...	...	257	315	243	9	230	389	...	1186	196
9th " 1882-3 ...	...	253	209	190	3	147	275	...	824	161
10th (Mar 27 to Sep 30 '83	...	132	82	104	3	108	172	...	469	...
Rept. (Oct 1 '83--Sep 30 '84	...	256	265	171	7	163	307	...	913	...
11th " 1884-5 ...	...	229	279	116	5	219	333	...	952	191
12th " 1885-6 ...	...	257	384	487	20	218	988	...	2097	242
13th " 1886-7 ...	...	253	299	341	21	311	781	...	1753	246
14th " 1887-8 ...	...	255	150	536	11	329	1617	...	2643	279
15th " 1888-9 ...	...	241	170	532	19	693	1142	...	2559	244
16th " 1889-90 ...	...	224	187	407	23	737	980	...	2334	162
17th " 1890-1 ...	...	230	42	423	21	853	619	...	1958	359
18th " 1891-2 ...	...	218	111	226	12	842	621	...	1812	128
19th " 1892-3 ...	...	231	91	163	4	443	586	...	1287	127
20th " 1893-4 ...	...	228	52	152	6	284	466	...	960	130
21st " 1894-5 ...	...	238	21	107	2	185	299	...	614	109
22nd " 1895-6 ...	...	257	101	64	0	178	192	...	535	88
23rd " 1896-7 ...	...	241	101	74	6	124	143	...	448	99
24th " 1897-8 ...	...	238	35	46	2	146	171	...	400	105
25th " 1898-9 ...	...	242	47	48	0	94	249	...	438	99
26th " 1899-1900 ...	...	239	15	108	13	164	196	...	496	190
27th " 1900-1 ...	...	238	87	625	33	306	488	...	1539	586
28th " 1901-2 ...	...	240	118	446	44	464	500	...	1572	779
29th " 1902-3 ...	...	241	243	929	71	716	615	...	2574	1532
30th " 1903-4 ...	...	240	175	614	44	546	533	70	1982	1088
31st " 1904-5 ...	...	240	141	593	63	615	578	190	2180	1050
32nd " 1905-6 ...	...	239	167	874	69	595	475	114	2294	1175
33rd " 1906-7 ...	...	220	207	930	177	775	392	227	2708	1146
34th " 1907-8 ...	...	242	254	1141	209	1081	1044	219	3948	1771
35th " 1908-9 ...	...	237	236	883	213	1036	1097	210	3675	1589
TOTALS		8398	5439	13291	1158	14353	19320	1030	54591	16347

READING ROOMS.

CENTRAL.

Open from 9 a.m. to 9-30 p.m.

The average daily attendance of readers is estimated at 2,000.

428 volumes are accessible to the public for use in the Reading Room only.

BRANCH No. 1—KENRICK PARK.

Open from 9 a.m. to 9-30 p.m.

A Reading and News Room was opened at 215, Spon Lane, on the 1st January, 1883. This Reading Room was transferred to the New Buildings, Kenrick Park, on Monday, the 28th September, 1903.

370 volumes are accessible to the public, for use in the Reading Room only.

BRANCH No. 2—HILL TOP.

Open from 9 a.m. to 9-30 p.m.

A Reading and News Room was opened on Monday, January 15th, 1883, at the office originally occupied by Mr. F. W. Topham. This Reading Room was transferred to the New Public Buildings, Hill Top, on Monday, the 20th June, 1898.

387 volumes are accessible to the public, for use in the Reading Room only.

BRANCH No. 3—GREET'S GREEN.

Open from 9 a.m. to 9-30 p.m.

A Reading and News Room which was opened on Wednesday, the 17th January, 1883, at No. 1, Great Bridge, was removed to the entrance to the Recreation Ground, Greet's Green, and opened on Monday, 1st August, 1892.

260 volumes are accessible to the public, for use in the Reading Room only.

BRANCH No. 4—CHURCHFIELD.

Open from 9 a.m. to 9-30 p.m.

A Reading and News Room was opened at 56, Tenscore Street, on Monday, 4th March, 1907.

30 volumes are accessible to the public, for use in the Reading Room only.

DONATIONS OF BOOKS, Etc.

- Agent General for South Australia, Threadneedle St., London, E.C.*—
In Australian Tropics.
- Anonymous, Birmingham*—
A Present to Youths and Young Men.
- Bennett & Co., Messrs., Granville Street, Birmingham*—
Directory, 1909.
- Blades, Alderman J. H., J.P., Oakhurst, West Bromwich*—
Alliance News (Weekly) to Greets Green Branch.
- Board of Trade, Commission for Labour, 44, Parliament St., London*—
Reports as published.
- British Museum Authorities*—
Catalogue of African Fresh Water Fish. Vol. I.
Catalogue of Moths. Vol. III. (Text).
Guide to Anthropology.
Guide to Egyptian Collection.
Guide to Egyptian Galleries.
Guide to Exhibition of Greek and Roman Life.
Guide to Whales, Porpoises, and Dolphins.
Introduction to Study of Rocks.
John Milton—Facsimiles of Autographs and Documents.
Synopsis of British Basidiomycetes.
- Carnegie, A., per International Arbitration League, Victoria Embankment, London, S.W.*—
Sir Randal Cremer.
- Davis, E. L., North Eastern Railway, York*—
The Enchanting North.
- Emigrants' Information Office, 31, Broadway, Westminster*—
Handbooks respecting Emigration, chiefly to the British Colonies.
- Hall, W., per Messrs. Routledge & Sons, Ltd., Ludgate Hill, London, E.C.*—
Via Crucis.
- High Commissioner for New Zealand, 13, Victoria Street, London, S.W.*—
Miscellaneous Literature relating to New Zealand.
- Iron and Steel Institute, per G. C. Lloyd, 28, Victoria Street, London, S.W.*—
Iron and Steel Institute Journals.
- Layton, Messrs. C. and E., 56, Farringdon Street, E.C.*—
Handy Newspaper List, 1909.
Insurance Register, 1909.
- Library Reports (about 200).*
Library Catalogues (various).
- Manley, Dr. H., New Street, West Bromwich*—
Medical Directory, 1908.

- Mann, J. C., West Bromwich—*
Journal of Chemical Society, 1908.
- Morgan, W., Simpson Street, Oldbury—*
Our Anuk.
- Patent Office Comptroller, 25, Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane—*
Illustrated Official Journal (Weekly).
- Paton, Messrs. J. & J., 143, Cannon Street—*
List of Schools, 1909.
- Publishers and Proprietors for Reading Rooms—*
Publication are denoted by an (a) on pages 10 and 11.
- Sherwell, G. W., Lombard Street, West Bromwich—*
Burgess List, 1909-10.
- Smithsonian Institution (per S. P. Langley), Washington, U.S.A.—*
Smithsonian Institution Report, 1907.
- Stubbs, Messrs., New Broad Street, London, E.C.—*
Directory, 1909.
- Superintendent of Emigration for Canada, 11 & 12, Charing Cross,
London, S.W.—*
Canada.
- Town and Counties Directories, Ltd., Dalziel Place, Edinburgh—*
Birmingham and District Directory, 1908-9.
- University, Birmingham, per the Secretary—*
Calendar, 1908-9.
- University, Dublin, per the Secretary—*
Calendar and Examination Papers, 1909.
- University, Durham, per the Registrar—*
Calendar, 1908-9.
- University, London, per the General Editor—*
Calendar and Guide, 1909.
- West Bromwich Corporation, per A. Caddick—*
Burgess Roll, 1908-9.
- West Bromwich Corporation, per G. W. Davis, Inspector of Weights
and Measures—*
Report for the year ending March, 1909.
- West Bromwich Corporation, per T. Hudson—*
Abstract of Accounts for the year ending March 31st, 1909.
- West Bromwich Corporation, per Dr. H. Manley, Medical Officer of
Health—*
Report of the Health of the County Borough.
- Whiteley, R. L., Science School, West Bromwich—*
Chemical Calculations.
- Willett, Rev. F., St. Andrew's Lodge, Seaford, Sussex—*
Osney Fosse. (2 copies).

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

April 1st, 1908, to

March 31st, 1909.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS from

To RECEIPTS—

£ s. d. £ s. d.

MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT.

BOROUGH RATE—

Amount of Rate Aid for the year, at One Penny in
the £

850 4 8

CENTRAL LIBRARY.

Fines	...	...	...	...	37	7	0
Membership Forms	...	...	...	...	6	3	10
Damage to Books	...	...	...	...		6	4
Books lost by Borrowers	...	...	...	...	1	7	3
Sale of Papers	...	...	...	...	11	15	5
Sale of Catalogues	...	...	...	...	1	16	7
Sale of Old Books	...	...	...	...		5	0
Hire of Lecture Room	...	...	...	...	43	8	6
Advertisements on Cases	...	...	...	...	1	15	8

104 5 7

KENRICK PARK BRANCH READING ROOM.

Sale of Papers

1 2 10

HILL TOP BRANCH READING ROOM.

Sale of Papers

1 3 5

GREETS GREEN BRANCH READING ROOM.

Sale of Papers

1 5 6

CHURCHFIELDS BRANCH READING ROOM.

Rent	...	...	...	...	7	16	0
Sale of Papers	...	...	...	...	1	19	4

9 15 4

£967 17 4

1st April, 1908, to 31st March, 1909.

By PAYMENTS—

£ s. d.

£ s. d.

MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT.

CENTRAL LIBRARY.

Salaries and Wages	366	5	1	
Additional Books, and Books to replace those worn out	85	3	8	
Bookbinding... ..	17	10	6	
Newspapers and Magazines	53	10	7	
Advertising, Printing, and Stationery	25	16	5	
Electric Light, Current and Fittings	88	9	0	
Water	4	0	0	
Insurance Premiums	4	12	3	
Subscriptions to various Societies	3	10	4	
Uniform for Caretaker	1	2	0	
Repairs to Buildings	7	10	1	
Furniture	10	3	7	
Petty Disbursements and Sundries	41	12	2	
				709 5 8

KENRICK PARK BRANCH READING ROOM.

Rent, Heating, and Lighting	35	0	0	
Newspapers and Magazines	14	3	10	
				49 3 10

HILL TOP BRANCH READING ROOM.

Newspapers and Magazines				12 17 8
---------------------------------	--	--	--	---------

GREET'S GREEN BRANCH READING ROOM.

Rent, Heating, and Lighting	35	0	0	
Newspapers and Magazines	14	15	11	
				49 15 11

CHURCHFIELDS BRANCH READING ROOM.

Rent, Heating, and Lighting	36	2	8	
Newspapers	8	4	9	
				44 7 5

				865 10 6
Receipts in excess of Payments				102 6 10
				£967 17 4

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE from

ACCOUNTS.	PAYMENTS.	LIABILITIES INCURRED BUT NOT PAID.		EXPENDITURE from 1st April, 1908, to 31st March, 1909.
		31st March, 1908	31st March, 1909	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Central Library ...	709 5 8	73 5 1	67 18 5	703 19 0
Kenrick Park Branch ...	49 3 10	3 12 4	3 6 0	48 17 6
Hill Top Branch ...	12 17 8	3 5 2	3 3 0	12 15 6
Greets Green Branch ...	49 15 11	3 13 7	3 12 7	49 14 11
Churchfields Branch ...	44 7 5	12 9 7	12 11 7	44 9 5
		96 5 9	90 11 7	
		90 11 7		
		5 14 2		
BALANCE, 31st March, 1909—	£ s. d.			
In hands of Treasurer	331 18 6			
Less Balance 31st March, 1908—				
In hands of Treasurer	229 11 8			
<div style="position: absolute; top: 0; left: 0; right: 0; bottom: 0; border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"></div>				
Receipts in excess of Payments ...	102 6 10			
Income in excess of Expenditure ...	...	...	...	108 1 0
	£967 17 4			£967 17 4

CAPITAL

To RECEIPTS.

£ s. d.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY

ANDREW CARNEGIE, ESQ., LL.D.—

Donation of full cost of building New Free Public Library	...	7714	16	3
---	-----	------	----	---

REVENUE ACCOUNT—

Appropriation of accumulated surplus of Penny Rate to defray cost of furnishing and equipping New Free Public Library...	...	1200	0	0
---	-----	------	---	---

 £8914 16 3

ACCOUNT (SPECIAL).

BY PAYMENTS.

£ s. d.

BUILDING ACCOUNT.

NEW FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1907.

Cost of Construction and Equipment	8914 16 3
------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----------

 £8914 16 3

BALANCE SHEET—

LIABILITIES.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
SPECIAL ACCOUNT.									
TRUST ACCOUNT—									
Gift of Andrew Carnegie, Esq., LL.D., of full cost of construction of New Library ... ..	...			7714	16	3			
BALANCE, being appropriation from Revenue Account to defray cost of furnishing and equipment of New Free Public Library...	...			1200	0	0			
							8914	16	3
REVENUE ACCOUNT.									
SUNDRY CREDITORS for balance due to them	...			90	11	7			
PRESENT SURPLUS—									
Income in excess of Expenditure to 31st March, 1908 ... ..	...	133	5	11					
Add Income in excess of Expenditure for the year ended 31st March, 1909	108	1	0						
				241	6	11			
							331	18	6
THOS. HUDSON, BOROUGH TREASURER.									
GUILDFORD O. HODGES, LIBRARIAN AND SECRETARY.									
							£9246	14	9

31st March, 1909.

ASSETS.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
SPECIAL ACCOUNT.		
NEW FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDINGS—		
Complete cost of construction and equipment ...	8914 16 3	
		8914 16 3
REVENUE ACCOUNT.		
SUNDRY DEBTORS for balances owing by them ...	...
BALANCE, 31st March, 1909—In hands of Treasurer	331 18 6	
		331 18 6
Audited and found correct,		
GEO. T. COLEMAN, F.C.A.,	} Auditors.	
CLEMENT KEYS, A.C.A.,		
		£9246 14 9

County Borough of West Bromwich.



Thirty-sixth Report

OF THE

Free Library Committee.

PRESENTED TO THE TOWN COUNCIL,
November, 1910.

WEST BROMWICH:
PRINTED BY JOSEPH BATES, CAXTON WORKS, 12 AND 14, PARADISE STREET.

FORM OF BEQUEST.

I bequeath out of such part of my personal estate as may by Law be bequeathed for such purposes, to the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of West Bromwich, in the County of Staffordshire, the sum of

free from Legacy Duty, for the benefit of the Public Libraries of the said Borough, to be expended in such way as the Committee for the time being may deem expedient; and I direct that the receipt of the Treasurer for the time being of the said Borough shall be an effectual discharge for the same Legacy.

AREA, 5,860 ACRES.

POPULATION IN 1901, 65,172.

HOUSES, 14,924.

RATEABLE VALUE, £230,817 10s.

Chronological History.

- 1870 Public Libraries Act unanimously adopted, 30th November.
1873 Mr. P. D. Bennett appointed first Chairman, 7th January.
1874 D. Dickinson appointed Librarian, 13th February.
1874 Central Newsroom opened, 31st August.
1875 Lending Library opened 15th February.
1875 Reference Library opened, 15th March.
1876 Henry Williams, Esq., appointed Chairman, 21st June.
1882 Mr. C. H. Bayley, Hon. Secretary, died in November.
1882 Librarian appointed Secretary.
1883 Branch Reading Room opened, Spon Lane, 1st January.
1883 " " " Hill Top, 15th January.
1883 " " " Greets Green, 17th January.
1884 Subscription Library formed and opened, 1st January.
1891 Mr. J. Manley appointed Chairman, 18th November.
1892 Branch Reading Room at Great Bridge transferred to Farley Park, Greets Green, 1st August.
1895 Permission granted to the Science and Art Masters to borrow books from the Reference Library for the use of Students at the Institute, 18th December; cancelled, July, 1902.
1898 Branch Reading Room at Hill Top transferred to the Park at Hill Top in July.
1900 Death of Mr. D. Dickinson, 8th March. (First Librarian.)
1900 Mr. Guildford O. Hodges appointed Librarian, 6th April.
1902 Councillor H. L. Browne appointed Chairman, 12th February.
1902 Fifth Edition of Lending Library Catalogue Published, April.
1903 Spon Lane Reading Room transferred to Kenrick Park in September.
1905 Dr. Andrew Carnegie offers £7,500 for a new Library, 24th June.
1905 Dr. Andrew Carnegie's offer accepted by Town Council, 5th July.
1906 Foundation Stone of New Free Library laid, April 27th, by Councillor H. Langley Browne, M.D.
1907 Branch Reading Room opened, Churchfield, 4th March.
1907 New Central Library opened, 10th June, by His Worship the Mayor, Councillor J. E. Wilson, J.P.
1907 Reference Library "Sheaf" Catalogue Published. June.
1908 Memorial Tablet to D. C. Murray, erected December.
1909 Sixth Edition of Lending Library Catalogue, Published; also Juvenile Catalogue.
1909 First Mural Decoration fixed September, the gift of John Spencer, Esq., J.P.
1910 First Course of University Extension Lectures given.
1910 Students' Tickets introduced. September.

1909-10.

Committee.

COUNCILLOR H. L. BROWNE, M.D., LL.D. (CHAIRMAN).

REV. J. W. JONES, M.A. (DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN).

ALDERMAN J. H. BLADES, J.P.

COUNCILLOR J. BROCKHOUSE (MAYOR).

COUNCILLOR J. ANDERSON.

COUNCILLOR W. N. HALFORD.

MR. J. BUTLER

MR. A. CADDICK (Town Clerk)

MR. W. FREETH

MR. J. GRIFFITHS

REV. F. A. HOMER

DR. H. MANLEY, M.A., M.D.

MR. W. S. WATTS

MR. W. WITHINGTON

—:O:—

Book-Buying Committee.

COUNCILLOR H. L. BROWNE, M.D., LL.D.

COUNCILLOR J. BROCKHOUSE (MAYOR).

COUNCILLOR J. ANDERSON.

MR. A. CADDICK.

REV. J. W. JONES, M.A.

DR. H. MANLEY, M.A., M.D.

—:O:—

Librarian and Secretary.

GUILDFORD O. HODGES, F.L.A.

—:O:—

Assistants.

JOSEPH WOODHALL

MISS N. BAYLISS

MISS M. A. REEVES

MISS D. G. HIRD

—:O:—

CARETAKER—WILLIAM DAVIS.

—:O:—

Branches.

CARETAKER, No. 1—KENRICK PARK: T. KENNETT.

„ No. 2—HILL TOP: J. WHITEHOUSE.

„ No. 3—GREET'S GREEN: H. JONES.

„ No. 4—CHURCHFIELD: W. POWELL.

THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
COMMITTEE
OF THE
West Bromwich Public Library.

*To His Worship the Mayor and Corporation of the Borough of
West Bromwich.*

SIR AND GENTLEMEN,

In submitting the Report of the work of the Libraries for the year ending 30th September, 1910, your Committee are pleased to be able to report a satisfactory record of excellent work in every department.

One of the special features of this institution is the constant effort to make it not only useful to the student, but really helpful to the public generally, for the Library is not only a place for mental recreation, but also an educative institution. With this object in view a Series of University Extension Lectures on 19th Century Novelists was organised for the first time this year, and proved an undoubted success.

It is the wish of the Committee that still further use should be made of the facilities offered, and the Librarian and his staff will be delighted to assist members of the public requiring information on any subject, which can be furnished from the Library.

LENDING DEPARTMENT.

STOCK.—During the year there has been added to this department, by purchase, 169 volumes; by presentation 6; by transfer from Subscription Library, 145; total, 320.

STOCK-TAKING.—The Libraries were closed for Stock-taking on July 1st, and re-opened on July 18th.

During the year out of an issue of 69,753 volumes, it is gratifying to report no loss whatever occurred.

ISSUES.—69,753 volumes have been issued to 69,305 borrowers, giving a daily average of 294.

BORROWERS' CARDS.—The number of borrowers who renewed their tickets or took out new ones during the year was 1,336, against 1,338 last year.

The actual number of cards in use on 30th September, 1910, was 2,674.

WEAR AND TEAR OF BOOKS.—187 volumes have been worn out and replaced, 277 have been re-bound, and 894 have been repaired on the premises by the Library staff.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—By special arrangement with the Sanitary Committee several cases of infectious disease were reported of borrowers using the Library.

In all cases the books were destroyed and replaced with new copies by the Committee, thus ensuring absolute freedom from risk in the use of the Library.

This department now consists of 11,859 volumes.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

The work in this department continues to steadily increase, and as all the books are of a strictly educative character it is particularly gratifying.

BOOK FUND DONATIONS.—In response to an appeal for funds for the purchase of Special Books for the Reference Library, the following donations were received:—

			£	s.	d.
Councillor J. Archibald Kenrick	...	...	50	0	0
Councillor H. Langley Browne	...	...	10	10	0
Alfred Caddick, Esq.	...	...	10	10	0
Sir G. H. Kenrick	...	...	10	0	0
His Worship the Mayor (Coun. J. Brockhouse)			5	5	0
Dr. Herbert Manley	...	...	5	5	0
Colonel G. Walton Walker...	...	...	5	5	0
Messrs. Cornish Bros., Ltd.	...	...	5	5	0
Miss Helen Caddick	...	...	5	0	0
Rev. J. W. Jones...	...	...	2	2	0
Messrs. C. Chivers, Ltd.	...	...	1	1	0
Councillor W. N. Halford...	...	...	1	1	0
Frank Roscoe, Esq.	...	...	1	0	0
			<hr/> £112 4 0 <hr/>		

The Committee desire to tender their sincere thanks to the donors, who made it possible for many valuable standard works of reference to be purchased. The Library is now well equipped, and better able to meet the demands made upon it.

CONSULTATIONS.—3,876 volumes were consulted by 1,719 readers, against 3675 volumes by 1,589 readers the previous year, an increase of 201 volumes and 130 readers.

No record is kept of the hundreds of references made to directories, year books, calendars, etc., which are upon the Public Shelves in the Central Reading Room.

STOCK.—During the year 239 volumes were added to this department, by purchase 233, by gift 6. This department now consists of 4,017 volumes.

READING ROOMS.

There is nothing of special interest to report with reference to the Central and Branch Reading Rooms.

The attendances continue to increase and a number of new papers, etc., have been added during the year. Full details of all periodicals taken will be found on pages 10 and 11.

MISCELLANEA.

WILD FLOWER STAND.—During the spring and summer months the stand for wild flowers in the public corridor has again been in charge of the Naturalists' Association.

The stand was kept well furnished with wild flowers, classified and named, and proved very interesting to those using the Library.

LECTURES.—As an experiment a course of six University Extension Lectures was given in the spring by Mr. Frank Roscoe, of the Birmingham University, in the Library Lecture Hall, as follows:—

1910.

Jan. 26th	“ Sir Walter Scott.”
Feb. 9th	“ Wm. Makepeace Thackeray.”
„ 23rd	“ Charles Dickens.”
Mar. 7th	“ George Eliot.”
„ 21st	“ Robert Louis Stevenson.”
April 4th	“ Thomas Hardy.”

Great interest was taken in the Lectures, the Hall being full on each occasion. It has been decided to continue the lectures next year.

During the summer months the Lecture Hall has been artistically decorated. ...

STAFF.—The members of the Library Staff have carried out their duties efficiently, and the introduction of Lady Junior Assistants has proved to be a step in the right direction; in fact, everything has been done to make the Library a valuable asset of the Borough.

ATTENDANCES.

There have been eleven meetings of the Committee and three Sub-Committee meetings, the attendance of the members being as follows:—

The Mayor (Councillor J. Brockhouse)	...	5
Alderman J. H. Blades	... ..	5
Councillor H. Langley Browne (Chairman)	...	11
Councillor J. Anderson	... ..	8
Councillor W. N. Halford	... ..	7
Mr. J. Butler	... ..	6
Mr. Alfred Caddick	... ..	1
Mr. W. Freeth	... ..	11
Mr. J. Griffiths	... ..	3
Rev. F. A. Homer	... ..	6
Rev. J. W. Jones (Deputy Chairman)	...	9
Dr. Herbert Manley	... ..	7
Mr. W. S. Watts	... ..	8
Mr. W. Withington	... ..	9

Signed on behalf of the Free Library Committee,

H. LANGLEY BROWNE, Chairman.

GUILDFORD O. HODGES, Librarian.



LIST OF NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES AND PERIODICALS SUPPLIED TO THE READING ROOMS.

Those marked *a* are presented.

NAME.	CENTRAL	KENRICK PARK	HILL TOP	GREET'S GREEN	CHURCHFIELD	NAME.	CENTRAL	KENRICK PARK	HILL TOP	GREET'S GREEN	CHURCHFIELD
DAILY.											
Birmingham—Evening Despatch	1	1	1	1	1	<i>a</i> Evesham Journal	1				
„ Gazette	2	1	1	1	1	Exchange and Mart	1				
„ Mail	3	2	1	1	2	Fishing Gazette	1				
„ Post	3	1	1	1	1	Garden			1		
Daily Mirror	1					Gardening	1				1
Daily Sketch	1					Gas World	1				
Liverpool Mercury	1					Gentlewoman	1				
London—Chronicle	1			1		Glasgow Herald	1				
„ Daily Mail	1	1	1	1	1	Good Words		1	1		
„ Daily News	1	1	1	1	1	Graphic	1	1	1	1	
„ Standard	1	1	1	1	1	<i>a</i> Grocers' Review	1				
„ Telegraph	1					Illustrated London News	1	1	1	1	1
„ Times	1					<i>a</i> India	1				
Manchester Guardian	1					<i>a</i> Investors' Guardian	1				
Midland Evening News	1					<i>a</i> Iron and Coal Trades Review	1				
Yorkshire Post	1					<i>a</i> Kidderminster Shuttle	1				
Wolverhampton—Evening Ex- press and Star	1	1	1	1	1	<i>a</i> Labour Leader	1				
WEEKLY.						Ladies' Field	1				
<i>a</i> Alliance News				1		Lady	1				
Amateur Photographer	1					Lady's Pictorial	1				
Architect	1					<i>a</i> Local Government Chronicle	1				
Athenæum	1					<i>a</i> Local Government Journal	1				
Birmingham Weekly Mercury	1					<i>a</i> Machinery Market	1				
<i>a</i> Blackpool Herald	1					<i>a</i> Midland Advertiser	3	1	1	1	1
<i>a</i> Blackpool Gazette and News	1					<i>a</i> Midland Counties Herald	1				
<i>a</i> Board of Trade Journal	1					Mining Journal	1				
Bookseller	1					<i>a</i> Motor Traction	1				
<i>a</i> Bournemouth Visitors' Directory	1					Nature	1				
Boys Own Paper	1	1				<i>a</i> Patents (Illustrated Official Jnl.)	1				
Builder	1					<i>a</i> Phonetic Journal	1	1	1	1	
Building News	1					Photography and Focus	1				
„ World	<i>a</i> 1			1		<i>a</i> Practical Engineer	1				
<i>a</i> Canada	1					<i>a</i> Present Truth	1				
<i>a</i> Canadian Gazette	1					Punch	1	1	1	1	
<i>a</i> Civil Service Aspirant	1					Queen	1				
<i>a</i> „ „ Competitor	1			1		<i>a</i> School Government Chronicle	1				
<i>a</i> Civilian	1					<i>a</i> Smethwick Telephone	1				
Clarion	1					Spectator	1				
<i>a</i> Clark's Weekly	1					Sphere	1				
<i>a</i> Colliery Guardian	1					Sporting and Dramatic News	1				
<i>a</i> Contract Journal	1					Staffordshire Advertiser	1				
<i>a</i> Contractors' Record	1					<i>a</i> Standard of Empire	1				
<i>a</i> Drapers' Record	1			1		<i>a</i> Tipton Leader	1				
<i>a</i> Dudley Herald	1					Truth	1				
Electrical Review	1					<i>a</i> Warwickshire Advertiser	1				
Engineer	1	1		1		<i>a</i> Wednesbury Herald	1				
Engineering	1					<i>a</i> West Bromwich Chronicle	3	1	1	1	1
English Mechanic	1	1	1	1	1	<i>a</i> „ „ Free Press	4	1	1	1	1
<i>a</i> „ Churchman	1					<i>a</i> „ „ Observer	3	1	1	1	1
Era	1					<i>a</i> „ „ Weekly News	3	1	1	1	1
						<i>a</i> Wolverhampton Chronicle	1		1	1	
						<i>a</i> Worcester Herald	1				
						Work	1				1

NAME.	CENTRAL	KENRICK PARK	HILL TOP	GREET'S GREEN	CHURCHFIELD	NAME.	CENTRAL	KENRICK PARK	HILL TOP	GREET'S GREEN	CHURCHFIELD
MONTHLY.						<i>a</i> Railway Clerk ...	1				
<i>a</i> Agricultural Economist ...	1					<i>Railway Time Tables—</i>					
<i>a</i> " Record ...	1					Bradshaw's Guide ...	1				
<i>a</i> Animals Friend ...	1					<i>a</i> Caledonian ...	1				
<i>a</i> Arbitrator ...	1	1	1	1	1	<i>a</i> Cambrian ...	1				
Art Journal ...	1					<i>a</i> Glasgow and South-Western ...	1				
Band of Hope ...	1	1	1	1		<i>a</i> Great Eastern ...	1				
<i>a</i> Bluejacket and Soldier ...	1					<i>a</i> Great Northern ...	1				
Boys Own Paper ...			1			<i>a</i> Great Western ...	1				
<i>a</i> Britain's Opium Harvest ...	1					<i>a</i> Lancashire and Yorkshire ...	1				
British Workman ...	1	1	1	1		<i>a</i> London and North-Western ...	1				
<i>a</i> Canadian Life and Resources ...	1					<i>a</i> Midland ...	1				
Captain ...	1				1	<i>a</i> North British ...	1				
Cassell's Magazine ...	1	1	1	1	1	<i>a</i> North Eastern ...	1				
Century Magazine (Scribner) ...	1		1			White and Pike ...	<i>a</i> 1			1	
Chambers' Journal ...	1	1	1	1	1	<i>a</i> Rechabite Magazine ...	1				
<i>a</i> Child's Guardian ...	1					<i>a</i> Representation ...	1				
<i>a</i> Church Gazette ...	1					Review of Reviews ...	1				
<i>a</i> Clerk of Works Journal ...	1					St. Nicholas ...	1				
<i>a</i> Conservative Unionist ...	1					<i>a</i> State Correspondent ...	1				
Contemporary Review ...	1					Strand Magazine ...	1	1	1	1	
<i>a</i> Correspondent ...	1					<i>a</i> Stationer ...	1				
<i>a</i> Deceased Seamen ...	2					<i>a</i> Students' Journal ...	1				
<i>a</i> Educational Times ...	1					Sunday at Home ...		1	1		
English Illustrated ...	1	1		1		<i>a</i> Sunday Closing Reporter ...	1				
<i>a</i> Foresters' Review ...	1					<i>a</i> Travellers Gazette ...	1				
Fortnightly Review ...	1					<i>a</i> Vaccination Inquirer ...	1				
<i>a</i> Good Health ...	1					<i>a</i> Vegetarian Messenger ...	1				
Girls' Own Paper ...	1					<i>a</i> Vulcan ...	1				
<i>a</i> G. W. R. Magazine ...	1					<i>a</i> White Ribbon ...	1				
Harper's Magazine ...	1					Windsor Magazine ...	1	1			1
<i>a</i> Herald of the Cross ...	1					Woman at Home ...				1	
<i>a</i> Herald of the Golden Age ...	1					Young Man ...				1	
<i>a</i> Herald of Health ...	1					<i>a</i> Zoophilist ...	1	1	1	1	
<i>a</i> Home ...	1					QUARTERLY.					
<i>a</i> Individualist ...	1					<i>a</i> Bird Notes and News ...	1				
<i>a</i> Insurance Agents' Review ...	1					<i>a</i> Englishwoman's Review ...	1				
<i>a</i> Labour Gazette ...	1		1			Hibbert Journal ...	1				
Lady's World ...	1					<i>a</i> Men's Magazine ...	1				
<i>a</i> Liberator ...	1					<i>a</i> Needlework ...	1				
Macfadden's Magazine ...	1					<i>a</i> W. B. Philanthropic Asso. Review ...	1	1	1	1	1
<i>a</i> Musical Herald ...	1					AS PUBLISHED.					
National Review ...	1					<i>a</i> Anti-Slavery Report ...	1				
<i>a</i> New Church Magazine ...	1					<i>a</i> Civil Service Candidate ...	1				
Nineteenth Century ...	1					<i>a</i> Emigration Circulars ...	20	1	1	1	1
<i>a</i> Nursing Notes ...	1					<i>a</i> Queensland Mining Journal ...	1				
<i>a</i> Patents ...	1					<i>a</i> University Correspondent ...	1				
<i>a</i> Positivist Review ...	1										
Quiver ...	1				1						

TABLE I.

SHOWING STOCK IN LIBRARIES AND BRANCH READING ROOMS.

Lending Library.				
In Stock previously	...	...	...	11592
Withdrawn	...	...	...	14
Worn out and out of print...	...	...	...	37
Volumes lost by replacement of Works in several volumes, by editions in one volume				2
Total loss ascertained out of issue of 69753 vols.				0
				<hr/> 53
				<hr/> 11539
Added during the year:—				
By Gift	...	...	...	6
,, purchase	...	...	...	169
,, transfer from Subscription Library	...	...	...	145
				<hr/> 320
Total Stock in Lending Library				<hr/> 11859
Reference Library.				
In Stock previously	...	...	...	3778
Withdrawn	...	...	...	0
				<hr/> 0
				<hr/> 3778
Added during the year:—				
By Gift	...	...	...	6
,, purchase	...	...	...	233
				<hr/> 239
Total Stock in Reference Library				<hr/> 4017
Branch Reading Rooms.				
Kenrick Park	...	...	...	370
Hill Top	...	...	...	387
Greets Green	...	...	...	260
Churchfield	...	...	...	40
				<hr/> 1057
Total Stock.				
Lending Library	...	...	...	11859
Reference Library	...	...	...	4017
Branch Reading Rooms	...	...	...	1057
Central Reading Room	...	...	...	438
				<hr/> 438
				<hr/> 17371
				<hr/> <hr/>

TABLE II.

SHOWING THE NUMBER OF VOLUMES IN EACH CLASS IN REFERENCE
AND LENDING DEPARTMENTS.

Lending Library.

A	Theology and Philosophy	...	...	667
B	History, Biography, and Travels	...	...	2888
C	Law, Politics, and Commerce	...	...	255
D	Science, Art, and Natural History	...	...	1053
E	Poetry and Drama	...	...	458
F	Magazines and Reviews	...	...	43
G	Fiction	...	...	4768
H	Miscellaneous Literature	...	...	694
J	Juvenile Literature	...	...	754
K	Music	...	...	279
				<hr/> 11859

Reference Library.

A	Theology and Philosophy	...	...	476
B	History, Biography, and Travels	...	...	976
C	Law, Politics, and Commerce	...	...	80
D	Science, Art, and Natural History	...	...	684
E	Miscellaneous Literature, Encyclo- pædias, etc.	...	...	1657
F	Poetry and Drama	...	...	144
				<hr/> 4017
				<hr/> 15876

TABLE III.

Classified Return of the Volumes borrowed from the Lending Library during the Twelve Months ending Sept. 30th, 1910.

DATE.	Days open.	Theology & Philosophy.	History, Biography, and Travels.	Law, Politics and Commerce.	Science and Art.	Poetry and Drama.	Magazines and Reviews.	*Fiction.	Miscellaneous Literature.	*Juvenile Literature.	Music.	Totals.		Daily Average Volumes.	Daily Average Borrowers.
												Vols.	Bor- rowers.		
October 1909 ...	22	88	335	70	388	105	25	4597	161	905	164	6838	6760	311	307
November , , ...	22	85	317	64	358	93	25	4145	157	832	161	6237	6195	284	282
December , , ...	20	77	322	70	349	81	25	3947	147	916	172	6106	6059	305	303
January 1910 ...	22	78	337	77	379	86	23	4217	157	1005	159	6518	6477	296	294
February , , ...	20	93	315	69	387	78	26	4526	153	1000	147	6794	6760	340	338
March , , ...	20	89	346	69	367	84	20	4213	174	975	157	6494	6467	325	323
April , , ...	22	112	348	75	439	99	26	4509	197	1167	177	7149	7105	325	323
May , , ...	20	93	295	66	352	85	18	3715	172	933	154	5883	5848	294	292
June , , ...	16	62	179	53	234	56	16	2614	111	667	109	4101	4083	256	255
July , , ...	10	44	99	31	135	27	13	1497	46	367	56	2315	2300	232	230
August , , ...	22	84	234	47	290	91	19	3492	126	878	121	5382	5354	245	243
September , , ...	21	71	252	39	347	63	17	4033	120	855	139	5936	5897	283	281
Totals ...	237	976	3379	730	4025	948	253	45305	1721	10500	1716	69753	69305	294	292

*Time allowed for reading works of Fiction and Juvenile Literature, 7 days; all other classes, 14 days.

Occupations of Borrowers admitted to Lending Department during the Year.

Agents, Collectors, and Travellers	21	Miners	5
Apprentices	21	Ministers	3
Architects and Surveyors	4	Miscellaneous	73
Artists	6	Moulders	15
Assistants	32	Musicians	10
Bakers and Confectioners	2	No occupations	52
Bookbinders	5	Not stated	87
Bootmakers	5	Nurses	18
Builders	9	Office Boys	4
Butchers	4	Packers	6
Carpenters and Joiners ...	10	Painters	11
Cashiers	3	Patternmakers	17
Castors	3	Photographers	4
Chemists	10	Polishers	3
Clerks and Book-keepers—		Post Office Employees—	
Males	115	Males	13
Females	46	Females	4
Doctors	2	Printers	17
Drapers	8	Railwaymen	4
Draughtsmen	17	Scholars—Boys	92
Dressmakers	24	„ Girls	63
Electricians	9	School Teachers—Males	38
Engineers and Fitters ...	30	„ „ Females	52
Glassworkers	6	„ Masters	6
Grocers	9	„ Mistresses	7
Hairdressers	5	Servants—Domestic ...	19
Housekeepers	9	Shopkeepers	32
Inspectors	3	Solicitors	2
Ironworkers	18	Students	30
Labourers	10	Tailors	3
Machinists	6	Turners	3
Managers	16	Typists	12
Manufacturers	3	Warehousemen	2
Mechanics	8	Wives and Daughters ...	134
Merchant	1		
Milliners	15		
		Total	1336

Ages of New Borrowers.

Under 14	139	35 to 40	74	60 and over	30
14 to 20	335	40 to 45	51	Not stated: Males	58
20 to 25	216	45 to 50	34	„ Females	124
25 to 30	152	50 to 55	23		
30 to 35	90	55 to 60	10	Total	1336

REFERENCE LIBRARY.

TABLE IV.

CLASSIFIED RETURNS OF VOLUMES CONSULTED IN THE REFERENCE
LIBRARY.

During the twelve months ending 30th September, 1910.

DATE.	Days open.	Theology and Philosophy.	History, Biogra- phy and Travels.	Law, Politics and Commerce.	Science, Art and Natural History.	Encyclopaedias, Dictionaries and Miscel. Literature	Poetry and Drama.	Number of Con- sultations.	Number of Readers.
October 1909 ...	22	4	168	25	143	63	50	453	150
November ,, ...	22	13	113	32	75	95	22	350	124
December ,, ...	20	23	66	12	75	63	16	255	112
January 1910 ...	22	18	89	20	120	98	24	369	169
February ,, ...	20	28	108	8	151	41	24	360	166
March ,, ...	20	19	88	25	134	69	14	349	149
April ,, ...	22	19	84	7	223	57	17	407	197
May ,, ...	20	13	65	7	137	45	2	269	135
June ,, ...	16	2	80	12	152	51	23	320	152
July ,, ...	10	14	41	4	88	5	10	162	82
August ,, ...	22	48	51	13	103	66	9	290	136
September ,, ...	21	7	73	10	140	56	6	292	147
Totals ...	237	208	1026	175	1541	709	217	3876	1719

Occupations of Readers in the Reference Library.

Accountants	2	Merchants	3
Actors	3	Miners	5
Advertisers	8	Miscellaneous	58
Agents, Collectors, and		Moulders	15
Travellers	52	Musicians	19
Architects and Surveyors	5	No occupation—Males ...	32
Artists	46	„ „ Females ...	21
Artists' Models	2	Not stated	93
Assistants	14	Nurses	12
Authors	2	Office Boys	5
Bakers and Confectioners	16	Painters	24
Brassfounders	4	Patentees	5
Builders	12	Patternmakers	21
Butchers	3	Photographers	30
Carpenters and Joiners ...	14	Plumbers	11
Cashiers	6	Post Office Employees ...	10
Chemists	46	Printers	26
Clerks and Book-keepers	107	Pupil Teachers	84
Clergymen and Ministers	48	Railwaymen	8
Doctors, Surgeons, etc. ...	16	Scholars	106
Draughtsmen	30	School Masters	76
Editors	7	„ Mistresses	10
Electricians	20	„ Teachers	128
Engineers and Fitters ...	75	Science Teachers	20
Glassworkers	18	Secretaries	12
Inspectors	21	Shopkeepers	27
Insurance	9	Solicitors	4
Ironworkers	29	Students	115
Jewellers	8	Tailors	4
Journalists	48	Turners	11
Labourers	11	Typists	5
Machinists	12	Whitesmiths	3
Managers	6		
Masons	3		
Mechanics	13		
		Total	1719

NOTE.—3,876 volumes have been consulted by 1,719 readers, who have made a formal application in writing, but in addition to this, hundreds of References are made to Directories, Gazetteers, Newspapers, etc., of which no record is kept.

The following Newspapers are filed in the Reference Library.

West Bromwich Free Press. West Bromwich Chronicle.
West Bromwich Weekly News. Midland Advertiser.
West Bromwich Observer.

Copies of the London "Times" and "Birmingham Daily Post" are kept for three months only.

TABLE V.

Showing the Number and Classification of Volumes issued from the Lending Department since 1884
(Statistics for first ten years may be seen in earlier reports.)

TABLE.																
	Days Open.	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	K	TOTALS.		Average Bot- toms		
												Volumes.	Borrowers.			
Report, 1884-5	...	229	1047	3862	141	2081	732	5010	28802	2037	5929	*227	49868	48238	218	210
" 1885-6	...	257	1108	5240	245	2455	876	6023	39566	2412	9405	1004	68334	65738	262	256
" 1886-7	...	253	983	5067	160	2127	872	5636	39231	2268	8833	732	65909	63347	260	250
" 1887-8	...	255	912	4271	115	1998	708	5555	38497	2002	7687	674	62419	60117	244	235
" 1888-9	...	241	564	3499	166	2032	628	4754	34796	1358	9867	571	58235	56118	241	232
" 1889-90	...	224	519	2867	132	1836	586	3994	31497	1296	9020	551	52298	49637	232	221
" 1890-1	...	230	539	3174	124	1650	428	3703	33985	1202	8334	523	52762	50116	229	217
" 1891-2	...	235	457	2645	107	1531	514	3008	33203	1199	7943	613	51220	50270	217	213
" 1892-3	...	231	449	2317	167	1626	547	2763	32198	1198	7751	748	49764	47520	215	205
" 1893-4	...	228	441	2518	139	1735	645	2879	37773	1203	8403	846	56581	54273	248	238
" 1894-5	...	238	510	2786	143	1618	626	2905	40739	1229	8906	663	60125	58229	252	244
" 1895-6	...	257	447	2322	108	1624	538	3117	40503	995	8722	492	58868	57634	229	223
" 1896-7	...	241	400	2093	106	1469	385	3222	36949	1018	7461	627	53730	52443	223	216
" 1897-8	...	238	335	2024	767	1237	284	42412	35218	7903	6000	666	49146	47682	207	200
" 1898-9	...	242	253	1342	45	957	162	1617	35392	667	4885	579	45899	45051	189	186
" 1899-1900	...	239	150	1336	78	783	146	772	33163	505	4652	449	42034	41379	176	173
" 1900-1	...	238	554	2758	267	2074	428	235	35080	1116	6194	970	49686	49004	209	206
" 1901-2	...	240	648	3278	519	2622	430	295	38189	1869	7038	1698	51698	51239	215	213
" 1902-3	...	241	772	3461	401	3510	517	372	37134	1820	7202	2012	58179	57879	241	240
" 1903-4	...	240	829	3687	490	4138	800	372	37134	1537	6919	2086	57992	57841	242	241
" 1904-5	...	240	768	3870	442	4244	712	311	42654	1472	9113	2145	65731	65644	274	273
" 1905-6	...	239	733	3641	606	4011	723	254	44961	1653	9443	1917	67942	67847	284	284
" 1906-7	...	230	775	3340	598	3985	732	224	42902	1552	10759	1816	66683	66593	303	303
" 1907-8	...	242	946	3616	648	4152	892	325	47532	1777	10075	1939	71922	71772	298	297
" 1908-9	...	237	980	3629	628	4272	865	301	46911	1679	11497	1931	72693	72470	307	306
" 1909-10	...	237	976	3379	730	4025	948	253	45505	1721	10500	1716	69753	69305	294	292
TOTALS	...	8672	32837	137024	9186	86733	26816	118931	1428601	65879	268368	28125	2292500	2063411	254	238

* Borrowers can retain Musical Works two weeks.
 † Since January, 1894, the time allowed for reading Theological and Philosophical Works has been extended from one to two weeks.
 " Since January, 1894, the time allowed for reading Scientific Works has been extended from one to two weeks.
 b Since November 1897, the time allowed for reading books in all classes, *excepting G and J*, has been extended to two weeks.

TABLE VI.

SHOWING THE NUMBER AND CLASSIFICATION OF VOLUMES CONSULTED
IN THE REFERENCE DEPARTMENT SINCE OPENING.

TABLE.	Days open	A	B	C	D	E	F	No. of Consultations.	No of Readers
1st Report, 1874	56	68	113	3	108	88	...	380	...
2nd " 1875-6	258	84	112	14	179	223	...	612	...
3rd " 1876-7	254	59	240	1	291	364	...	955	419
4th " 1877-8	256	69	395	20	276	379	...	1139	542
5th " 1878-9	256	121	326	6	340	718	...	1511	566
6th " 1879-80	252	215	308	3	332	881	...	1739	557
7th " 1880-1	210	239	224	1	222	419	...	1105	392
8th " 1881-2	257	315	243	9	230	389	...	1186	196
9th " 1882-3	253	209	190	3	147	275	...	824	161
10th { Mar 27 to Sep 30 '83	132	82	104	3	108	172	...	469	...
Rept. { Oct 1 '83--Sep 30 '84	256	265	171	7	163	307	...	913	...
11th " 1884-5	229	279	116	5	219	333	...	952	191
12th " 1885-6	257	384	487	20	218	988	...	2097	242
13th " 1886-7	253	299	341	21	311	781	...	1753	246
14th " 1887-8	255	150	536	11	329	1617	...	2643	279
15th " 1888-9	241	170	532	19	696	1142	...	2559	244
16th " 1889-90	224	187	407	23	737	980	...	2334	162
17th " 1890-1	230	42	423	21	853	619	...	1958	359
18th " 1891-2	218	111	226	12	842	621	...	1812	128
19th " 1892-3	231	91	163	4	443	586	...	1287	127
20th " 1893-4	228	52	152	6	284	466	...	960	130
21st " 1894-5	238	21	107	2	185	299	...	614	109
22nd " 1895-6	257	101	64	0	178	192	...	535	88
23rd " 1896-7	241	101	74	6	124	143	...	448	99
24th " 1897-8	238	35	46	2	146	171	...	400	105
25th " 1898-9	242	47	48	0	94	249	...	438	99
26th " 1899-1900	239	15	108	13	164	196	...	496	190
27th " 1900-1	238	87	625	33	306	488	...	1539	586
28th " 1901-2	240	118	446	44	464	500	...	1572	779
29th " 1902-3	241	243	929	71	716	615	...	2574	1532
30th " 1903-4	240	175	614	44	546	533	70	1982	1088
31st " 1904-5	249	141	593	63	615	578	190	2180	1050
32nd " 1905-6	239	167	874	69	595	475	114	2294	1175
33rd " 1906-7	220	207	930	177	775	392	227	2708	1146
34th " 1907-8	242	254	1141	209	1081	1044	219	3948	1771
35th " 1908-9	237	236	883	213	1036	1097	210	3675	1589
36th " 1909-10	237	208	1026	175	1541	709	217	3876	1719
TOTALS	8635	5647	14317	1333	15894	20029	1247	58467	18066

READING ROOMS.

CENTRAL.

Open from 9 a.m. to 9-30 p.m.

The average daily attendance of readers is estimated at 2,000.

438 volumes are accessible to the public for use in the Reading Room only.

BRANCH No. 1—KENRICK PARK.

Open from 9 a.m. to 9-30 p.m.

A Reading and News Room was opened at 215, Spon Lane, on the 1st January, 1883.

This Reading Room was transferred to the New Buildings, Kenrick Park, on Monday, the 28th September, 1903.

370 volumes are accessible to the public, for use in the Reading Room only.

BRANCH No. 2—HILL TOP.

Open from 9 a.m. to 9-30 p.m.

A Reading and News Room was opened on Monday, January 15th, 1883, at the office originally occupied by Mr. F. W. Topham.

This Reading Room was transferred to the New Public Buildings, Hill Top, on Monday, the 20th June, 1898.

387 volumes are accessible to the public, for use in the Reading Room only.

BRANCH No. 3—GREET'S GREEN.

Open from 9 a.m. to 9-30 p.m.

A Reading and News Room, which was opened on Wednesday, the 17th January, 1883, at No. 1, Great Bridge, was removed to the entrance to the Recreation Ground, Greet's Green, and opened on Monday, 1st August, 1892.

260 volumes are accessible to the public, for use in the Reading Room only.

BRANCH No. 4—CHURCHFIELD.

Open from 9 a.m. to 9-30 p.m.

A Reading and News Room was opened at 56, Tenscore Street, on Monday, 4th March, 1907.

40 volumes are accessible to the public, for use in the Reading Room only.

DONATIONS OF BOOKS, Etc.

Anonymous—

Germany and Sea Power. 1912?

Blades, Alderman J. H., J.P., Oakhurst, West Bromwich—

Alliance News (Weekly) to Greet's Green Branch.

Board of Trade, Commission for Labour, 44, Parliament Street, London—

Reports as published.

British Museum Authorities—

Catalogue of Moths. Vol. 8. Text.

Catalogue of Cretaceous Bryozoa. Vol. 2.

Hand List of Birds. Vol. 5.

Special Guide No. 4:—Memorials of Darwin.

Casson, H. N., Pine Hill, New York—

Cyrus Hall McCormick.

Emigrants' Information Office, 31, Broadway, Westminster—

Handbooks respecting Emigration, chiefly to the British Colonies

High Commissioner for New Zealand, 13, Victoria Street, London, S.W.—

Miscellaneous Literature relating to New Zealand.

Iron and Steel Institute, per G. C. Lloyd, 28, Victoria Street, London, S.W.—

Iron and Steel Institute Journal, 1909. No. 2.

Jannaway, F. G., 99, Stockwell Park Road, London, S.W.—

Christendom Astray.

Knibbs, G. H., Commonwealth of Australia Office, 72, Victoria St., Westminster, S.W.—

Official Year Book of Australia, 1909.

Layton, Messrs. C. and E., 56, Farringdon Street, E.C.—

Handy Newspaper List, 1910. Two copies.

Insurance Register, 1910. Two copies.

Library Reports (about 200).

Library Catalogues (various).

Mann, J. C., West Bromwich—

Journal of Chemical Society, 1909.

Newburn, Ellis and Pryor, Messrs., 70-72, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.—

Directory of Food Trade Marks and Brands.

Ogita, E., Japan-British Exhibition, London, W.—

Recent Progress in Korea.

Patent Office Comptroller, 25, Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane—

Illustrated Official Journal.

Publishers, "Daily News," 19-22, Bouverie Street, London, E.C.—
"Daily News" Year Book, 1910.

Publishers and Proprietors for Reading Rooms—

Publications are denoted by an (a) on pages 10 and 11.

Roscoe, F., University, Birmingham—

Thackeray, by Chesterton.

Sir Walter Scott studied in 8 novels. Canning.

Life of R. L. Stevenson. Balfour. 2 vols.

Royal Insurance Co., Ltd., 7, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham—

Record of Sports (6 copies).

Sherwell, G. W., Lombard Street, West Bromwich—

Burgess List, 1910-11.

Smithsonian Institution (per C. D. Walcott), Washington, U.S.A.

Smithsonian Institution Report, 1908.

Town Clerk, Guildhall, London, E.C.—

Calendar of Letter Books of the City of London.

Letter Book I.

University, Birmingham, per the Secretary—

Calendar, 1909-10.

University, Dublin, per the Secretary—

Calendar and Examination Papers, 1910.

University, Durham, per the Registrar—

Calendar, 1909-10.

University, London, per the General Editor—

Calendar and Guide, 1910.

University of Wales (Cardiff), per the Registrar—

Calendar 1909-10.

West Bromwich Corporation, per A. Caddick—

Burgess Roll, 1909-10.

West Bromwich Corporation, per G. W. Davis, Inspector of Weights and Measures—

Report for the year ending March 31st, 1910.

West Bromwich Corporation, per T. Hudson—

Abstract of Accounts for the year ending March 31st, 1910.

West Bromwich Corporation, per Dr. H. Manley, Medical Officer of Health—

Report of the Health of the County Borough.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

April 1st, 1909, to

March 31st, 1910.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS from

TO RECEIPTS.

£ s. d. £ s. d.

MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT.

BOROUGH RATE—

Amount of Rate Aid for the year, at One Penny in the £

852 7 5

CENTRAL LIBRARY.

Fines	40	14	3
Membership Forms	5	17	6
Damage to Books		12	0
Sale of Papers	14	19	1
Sale of Catalogues	6	12	11
Sale of Old Books		14	0
Hire of Lecture Room	18	5	6
Advertisements on Cases	3	19	0
University Extension Lectures: Receipts ...	14	5	9

106 0 0

SPON LANE BRANCH READING ROOM.

Sale of Papers
----------------	-----	-----	-----	-----

18 6

HILL TOP BRANCH READING ROOM.

Sale of Papers
----------------	-----	-----	-----	-----

116

GREET'S GREEN BRANCH READING ROOM.

Sale of Papers
----------------	-----	-----	-----	-----

1 6 11

CHURCHFIELDS BRANCH READING ROOM.

Rent	...	...	...	...	...	4	16	0
Sale of Papers	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	11

5 17 11

TOTAL RECEIPTS ...

967 12 3

Payments in excess of Receipts
--------------------------------	-----	-----

19 14 6

£987 6 9

1st April, 1909, to 31st March, 1910.

By PAYMENTS.

£ s. d. £ s. d.

MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT.**CENTRAL LIBRARY.**

Salaries and Wages	...	...	...	367	15	0		
Additional Books, and Books to replace those worn out	...	...	...	113	3	9		
Bookbinding	...	...	...	25	13	6		
Newspapers and Magazines	...	...	...	53	18	5		
Advertising, Printing and Stationery	...	...	...	25	7	7		
New Catalogues	...	...	...	36	6	0		
Electric Light, Current and Fittings	...	...	...	93	14	7		
Water	...	...	...	4	0	0		
Insurance Premiums	...	...	...	4	12	3		
Subscriptions to various Societies	...	...	...	2	12	6		
Uniform for Caretaker	...	...	...		16	0		
Repairs to Buildings	...	...	...	17	16	0		
Petty Disbursements and Sundries	...	...	...	45	13	9		
University Extension Lectures	...	...	...	26	5	0		
							817	14 4

SPON LANE BRANCH READING ROOM.

Rent, Heating and Lighting	...	...	...	35	0	0		
Newspapers and Magazines	...	...	...	13	10	11		
							48	10 11

HILL TOP BRANCH READING ROOM.

Newspapers and Magazines				12	16 1
--------------------------	-----	-----	-----	--	--	--	----	------

GREETS GREEN BRANCH READING ROOM.

Rent, Heating and Lighting	...	...	...	35	0	0		
Newspapers and Magazines	...	...	...	14	15	2		
							49	15 2

CHURCHFIELDS BRANCH READING ROOM.

Rent, Heating and Lighting	...	...	...	44	8	7		
Newspapers and Books	...	...	...	12	5	2		
Furniture	...	...	...	1	16	6		
							58	10 3

TOTAL PAYMENTS ...

£987 6 9

1st April, 1909, to 31st March, 1910.

ACCOUNTS.	RECEIPTS.	ASSETS						INCOME from 1st April, 1909, to 31st March, 1910.	
		ACCRUED BUT NOT RECEIVED.							
		31st March, 1909.			31st March, 1910.				
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Amount of Rate Aid ..	852	7	5	...	...	...	852	7	5
Central Library	106	0	0	...	...	...	106	0	0
Spon Lane Branch		18	6	...	...	...		18	6
Hill Top Branch	1	1	6	...	...	...	1	1	6
Greets Green Branch	1	6	11	...	...	...	1	6	11
Churchfields Branch	5	17	11	...	...	...	5	17	11
BALANCE,									
31st March, 1910—									
	£	s.	d.						
In hands of Treasurer									
31st March, 1909 ..	331	18	6						
Less—									
In hands of Treasurer									
31st March, 1910 .	312	4	0						
Payments in excess of									
Receipts	19	14	6						
Expenditure in excess of									
Income							35	1	10
	£987	6	9				£1002	14	1

CAPITAL

To RECEIPTS.

£ s. d.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY

ANDREW CARNEGIE, Esq., LL.D.—

Donation of full cost of building	New	Free	
Public Library ... ..	...	...	7714 16 3

REVENUE ACCOUNT—

Appropriation of accumulated surplus of Penny Rate to defray cost of furnishing and equipping	New	Free	
Public Library ... ..	...	...	1200 0 0

£8,914 16 3

SPECIAL BOOK

To RECEIPTS.

£ s. d.

Donations for the Provision of Books	112 4 0
--------------------------------------	-----	-----	---------

£112 4 0

ACCOUNT.

BY PAYMENTS.

£ s. d.

BUILDING ACCOUNT.

NEW FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1907.

Cost of Construction and Equipment	8914	16	3
------------------------------------	-----	-----	------	----	---

£8,914	16	3
--------	----	---

FUND ACCOUNT.

BY PAYMENTS.

£ s. d.

Cost of Books purchased during the year	65	6	7
---	-----	-----	----	---	---

BALANCE, 31st March, 1910—

In hands of Treasurer	46	17	5
-----------------------	-----	-----	-----	----	----	----	---

£112	4	0
------	---	---

BALANCE SHEET—

LIABILITIES.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
CAPITAL ACCOUNT.									
TRUST ACCOUNT—									
Gift of Andrew Carnegie, Esq., LL.D., of full cost of construction of New Library ...				7714	16	3			
BALANCE, being Appropriation from Revenue Account to defray cost of furnishing and equipment of New Free Public Library ...				1200	0	0			
							8914	16	3
SPECIAL ACCOUNT.									
SPECIAL BOOK FUND ACCOUNT—									
Unexpended balance							46	17	5
REVENUE ACCOUNT.									
SUNDRY CREDITORS for balances due to them ...				105	18	11			
PRESENT SURPLUS—									
Income in excess of Expenditure to 31st March, 1909	241	6	11						
Less—Expenditure in excess of Income for year ended 31st March, 1910	35	1	10						
				206	5	1			
							312	4	0
THOS. HUDSON, BOROUGH TREASURER									
GUILDFORD O. HODGES, LIBRARIAN AND SECRETARY.									
							£	9273	17 8

31st March, 1910.

ASSETS.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
CAPITAL ACCOUNT.		
NEW FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDINGS—		
Complete cost of construction and equipment	8914 16 3	
		8914 16 3
SPECIAL ACCOUNT.		
SPECIAL BOOK FUND ACCOUNT—		
CASH in hands of Treasurer	...	46 17 5
REVENUE ACCOUNT.		
CASH in hands of Treasurer	...	312 4 0
Audited and found correct, GEO. T. COLEMAN, F.C.A.,) CLEMENT KEYS, A.C.A.,) Auditors.		
		£ 9273 17 8

County Borough of West Bromwich.



37th ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Free Library Committee.

PRESENTED TO THE TOWN COUNCIL,

November, 1911.

FORM OF BEQUEST.

I bequeath out of such part of my personal estate as may by Law be bequeathed for such purposes, to the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of West Bromwich, in the County of Staffordshire, the sum of

free from Legacy Duty, for the benefit of the Public Libraries of the said Borough, to be expended in such way as the Committee for the time being may deem expedient; and I direct that the receipt of the Treasurer for the time being of the said Borough shall be an effectual discharge for the same Legacy.

AREA, 5,860 ACRES.

POPULATION IN 1911, 68,345.

HOUSES, 15,179.

RATEABLE VALUE, £234,906 10s. 0d.

Chronological History.

- 1870 Public Libraries Act unanimously adopted, 30th November.
1873 Mr. P. D. Bennett appointed first Chairman, 7th January.
1874 D. Dickinson appointed Librarian, 13th February.
1874 Central Newsroom opened, 31st August.
1875 Lending Library opened 15th February.
1875 Reference Library opened, 15th March.
1876 Henry Williams, Esq., appointed Chairman, 21st June.
1882 Mr. C. H. Bayley, Hon. Secretary, died in November.
1882 Librarian appointed Secretary.
1883 Branch Reading Room opened, Spon Lane, 1st January.
1883 " " " Hill Top, 15th January.
1883 " " " Greets Green, 17th January.
1884 Subscription Library formed and opened, 1st January.
1891 Mr. J. Manley appointed Chairman, 18th November.
1892 Branch Reading Room at Great Bridge transferred to Farley Park, Greets Green, 1st August.
1895 Permission granted to the Science and Art Masters to borrow books from the Reference Library for the use of Students at the Institute, 18th December; cancelled, July, 1902.
1898 Branch Reading Room at Hill Top transferred to the Park at Hill Top in July.
1900 Death of Mr. D. Dickinson, 8th March. (First Librarian.)
1900 Mr. Guildford O. Hodges appointed Librarian, 6th April.
1902 Councillor H. L. Browne appointed Chairman, 12th February.
1902 Fifth Edition of Lending Library Catalogue Published, April.
1903 Spon Lane Reading Room transferred to Kenrick Park in September.
1905 Dr. Andrew Carnegie offers £7,500 for a new Library, 24th June.
1905 Dr. Andrew Carnegie's offer accepted by Town Council, 5th July.
1906 Foundation Stone of New Free Library laid, April 27th, by Councillor H. Langley Browne, M.D.
1907 Branch Reading Room opened, Churchfield, 4th March.
1907 New Central Library opened, 10th June, by His Worship the Mayor, Councillor J. E. Wilson, J.P.
1907 Reference Library "Sheaf" Catalogue Published. June.
1908 Memorial Tablet to D. C. Murray, erected December.
1909 Sixth Edition of Lending Library Catalogue, Published; also Juvenile Catalogue.
1909 First Mural Decoration fixed September, the gift of John Spencer, Esq., J.P.
1910 First Course of University Extension Lectures given.
1910 Students' Tickets introduced. September.
1911 Two further Mural Panels, painted by Mr. Wilkinson.

1910-11.

Committee.

COUNCILLOR H. L. BROWNE, M.D., LL.D. (CHAIRMAN).

REV. J. W. JONES, M.A. (DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN).

ALDERMAN J. H. BLADES, J.P.

COUNCILLOR J. BROCKHOUSE (MAYOR).

COUNCILLOR J. ANDERSON.

COUNCILLOR J. WHEATLEY.

MR. A. CADDICK

DR. H. MANLEY, M.A., M.D.

MR. W. FREETH

DR. H. B. W. PLUMMER, M.D.

MR. J. G. GIFFORD

MR. H. TOMBLIN

REV. F. A. HOMER

MR. W. S. WATTS

—:o:—

Book-Buying and Emergency Committee.

COUNCILLOR H. L. BROWNE, M.D., LL.D.

COUNCILLOR J. BROCKHOUSE (MAYOR).

COUNCILLOR J. ANDERSON.

MR. A. CADDICK.

REV. J. W. JONES, M.A.

DR. H. MANLEY, M.A., M.D.

—:o:—

Librarian and Secretary.

GUILDFORD O. HODGES, F.L.A.

—:o:—

Assistants.

JOSEPH WOODHALL.

MISS M. A. REEVES

MISS N. BAYLISS

MISS K. FLAVELL.

—:o:—

CARETAKER:—WILLIAM DAVIS.

—:o:—

Branches.

CARETAKER, No. 1—KENRICK PARK: T. KENNETT.

„ No. 2—HILL TOP: J. WHITEHOUSE.

„ No. 3—GREET'S GREEN: H. JONES.

„ No. 4—CHURCHFIELD: J. WOODHALL.

THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

OF THE

West Bromwich Public Library.

*TO HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR AND CORPORATION OF
THE BOROUGH OF WEST BROMWICH.*

SIR AND GENTLEMEN,

In presenting the Report for the year ending September 30th, 1911, your Committee are pleased to say that the work, which may justly be considered a branch of the educational activities of the Borough, has gone on increasing, both in volume and usefulness, as a glance at the figures in the following pages will show.

We are happy in being able to administer a Public Library at a time when the importance of the institution is being realised more than ever before.

The Library now takes a great part in the life of a modern community, its circulating department enters into the home life of the people, serving not only the child, but the adult; its reference collection is indispensable alike to the student, the artisan, the professional man, and every citizen who requires information. It is the wish of the Committee that this may become more so in our community, and to this end "University Extension Lectures," "Students' Tickets," etc., have been inaugurated and much appreciated, and in fact everything done to make the institution useful and popular, as far as our limited income will allow.

COMMITTEE.—Councillor H. Langley Browne was re-elected Chairman and the Rev. J. W. Jones Deputy-Chairman.

LENDING DEPARTMENT.

STOCK.—During the year there has been added to this department, by purchase, 94 volumes; by presentation, 3; by transfer from Subscription Library, 175; total, 272.

STOCK-TAKING.—The Libraries were closed for Stock-taking on July 1st, and re-opened on July 17th.

During the year out of an issue of 70,775 volumes, it is gratifying to report no loss.

ISSUES.—For home reading and study 70,340 borrowers have borrowed 70,775 volumes, giving a daily average of 297.

BORROWERS.—1,300 new cards were issued this year and 216 Students' Tickets; the student's ticket enables a borrower to have out a technical book in addition to the book on the ordinary ticket.

The actual number of borrowers' cards in use on 30th September, 1911, was 2,852, against 2,674 last year.

CONDITION OF BOOKS.—35 worn out and obsolete books have been withdrawn, 134 volumes have been replaced by clean copies, 206 have been re-bound, and 1,234 have been repaired on the premises by the Library staff. In this way the books are kept clean and tidy.

This department now consists of 12,096 volumes.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

Your Committee feel that the most valuable part of a Public Library is the Reference Department; it is therefore particularly gratifying to be able to report progress here.

CONSULTATIONS.—4,100 volumes were consulted by 2,239 readers, against 3,876 volumes by 1,719 readers the previous year, an increase of 224 volumes and 520 readers.

No record is kept of the hundreds of references made to directories, year books, calendars, magazines, etc., which are upon the Public Shelves in the Central Reading Room.

STOCK.—During the year 100 volumes were added to this department; by purchase, 56; by gift, 44. This department now consists of 4,117 volumes.

READING ROOMS.

The Central and Branch Reading Rooms continue to be largely patronised; the average daily attendance at the Central is estimated at 2,000.

In response to an appeal from the local I.L.P. an experiment was tried during 1910 of opening the Central Reading Rooms on Bank Holidays, from 9 till noon; it was so little used that at the end of the year it was decided to discontinue the practice.

MISCELLANEA.

LECTURES.—Mr. Frank Roscoe, of the Birmingham University, delivered 12 Lectures, six in the autumn of 1910 on "Some 19th Century Novelists," and six in the spring of 1911 on "Six Contemporary Novelists." Your Committee regret to report that these lectures were not so well attended as in the previous year, but a literary treat was enjoyed by those who did attend.

MURAL PAINTINGS.—Two further panels have been fixed up in the Central Hall, painted by Mr. Wilkinson when at the local Art School, one representing "The Scribe" and the other "The Reader."

Mr. Frank Roscoe has given the one, the Libraries Committee bearing the cost of the second one.

WILD FLOWER STAND.—During the spring and summer months the stand for wild flowers in the public corridor has again been in charge of the Naturalists' Association, and the exhibits have been appreciated.

A bust of William Shakespeare has been placed in the corridor and a terrestrial globe in the Reference Library.

LECTURE HALL.—The hall has again proved itself very popular, attracting various societies, etc., to hold their meetings, exhibitions, concerts, etc., and was much used, especially during the winter months.

ATTENDANCES.

There have been thirteen meetings of the Committee and one Sub-Committee meeting, the attendance of the members being as follows:—

	Summoned.	Attended.
The Mayor (Councillor J. Brockhouse) ...	14	2
Alderman J. H. Blades ...	13	5
Councillor H. Langley Browne (Chairman)...	14	12
Councillor J. Anderson... ..	14	6
Mr. J. Butler (died May, 1911) ...	9	2
Mr. Alfred Caddick	14	0
Mr. W. Freeth	13	13
Mr. J. G. Gifford	13	5
Mr. J. Griffiths (died January, 1911) ...	4	1
Rev. F. A. Homer	13	2
Rev. J. W. Jones (Deputy Chairman) ...	14	10
Dr. Herbert Manley	14	7
Dr. H. B. W. Plummer (appointed March, 1911)	8	5
Mr. H. Tomblin (appointed July, 1911) ...	2	2
Mr. W. S. Watts	13	10

Signed on behalf of the Free Library Committee,

H. LANGLEY BROWNE, Chairman.

GUILDFORD O. HODGES, Librarian.



LIST OF NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES AND PERIODICALS SUPPLIED TO THE READING ROOMS.

(Those marked *a* are presented.)

NAME.	CENTRAL	KENRICK PARK	HILL TOP	GREET'S GREEN	CHURCHFIELD	NAME.	CENTRAL	KENRICK PARK	HILL TOP	GREET'S GREEN	CHURCHFIELD
DAILY.											
Birmingham—Evening Despatch	1	1	1	1	1	<i>a</i> Evesham Journal	...	1			
„ Gazette	...	2	1	1	1	„ Exchange and Mart	...	1			
„ Mail	...	3	2	1	1	„ Farm and Home	...	1			
„ Post	...	3	1	1	1	„ Fishing Gazette	...	1			
Daily Mirror	...	1				„ Garden	...		1		
Daily Sketch	...	1				„ Gardening	...	1			1
Liverpool Mercury	...	1				„ Gas World	...	1			
London—Chronicle	...	1		1		„ Gentlewoman	...	1			
„ Daily Mail	...	1	1	1	1	„ Good Words	...		1	1	
„ Daily News	...	1	1	1	1	„ Graphic	...	1	1	1	1
„ Standard	...	1	1	1	1	„ Grocers' Review	...	1			
„ Telegraph	...	1				„ Illustrated London News	...	1	1	1	1
„ Times	...	1				„ India	...	1			
Manchester Guardian	...	1				„ Investors' Guardian	...	1			
Midland Evening News	...	1				„ Iron and Coal Trades Review	...	1			
Yorkshire Post	...	1				„ Kidderminster Shuttle	...	1			
Wolverhampton—Evening Ex- press and Star	...	1	1	1	1	„ Labour Leader	...	1			
WEEKLY.						„ Ladies' Field	...	1			
<i>a</i> Alliance News	...			1		„ Lady	...	1			
„ Architect	...	1				„ Lady's Pictorial	...	1			
„ Athenæum	...	1				„ Local Government Chronicle	...	1			
„ Birmingham Weekly Mercury	...	1				„ Local Government Journal	...	1			
<i>a</i> Blackpool Herald	...	1				„ Machinery Market	...	1			
<i>a</i> Blackpool Gazette and News	...	1				„ Midland Advertiser	...	3	1	1	1
<i>a</i> Blackpool Times	...	1				„ Midland Counties Herald	...	1			
<i>a</i> Board of Trade Journal	...	1				„ Mining Journal	...	1			
„ Bookseller	...	1				„ Motor Traction	...	1			
<i>a</i> Bournemouth Visitors' Directory	1					„ Nature	...	1			
„ Boys Own Paper	...	1	1			„ Patents (Illustrated Official Jnl.)	1				
„ Builder	...	1				„ Phonetic Journal	...	1	1	1	1
„ Building News	...	1				„ Photographic News	...	1			
„ „ World	...	<i>a</i> 1		1		„ Photography and Focus	...	1			
<i>a</i> Canada	...	1				„ Practical Engineer	...	1			
<i>a</i> Canadian Century	...	1				„ Present Truth	...	1			
<i>a</i> Canadian Gazette	...	1				„ Punch	...	1	1	1	1
<i>a</i> Civil Service Aspirant	...	1				„ Queen	...	1			
<i>a</i> „ „ Competitor	...	1	1			„ School Government Chronicle	...	1			
„ Clarion	...	1				„ Scotsman	...	1			
<i>a</i> Clark's Educator	...	1				„ Smethwick Telephone	...	1			
<i>a</i> Colliery Guardian	...	1				„ Spectator	...	1			
<i>a</i> Common Cause	...	1				„ Sphere	...	1			
<i>a</i> Contract Journal	...	1				„ Sporting and Dramatic News	...	1			
<i>a</i> Contractors' Record	...	1				„ Staffordshire Advertiser	...	1			
<i>a</i> Drapers' Record	...	1		1		„ Standard of Empire	...	1			
„ Dublin Freeman	...	1				„ Truth	...	1			
<i>a</i> Dudley Herald	...	1				„ Warwickshire Advertiser	...	1			
„ Electrical Review	...	1				„ Wednesbury Herald	...	1			
„ Engineer	...	1	1	1		„ Wellington Journal	...	1			
„ Engineering	...	1				„ West Bromwich Chronicle	...	3	1	1	1
<i>a</i> English Churchman	...	1				<i>a</i> „ „ Free Press	...	4	1	1	1
„ „ Mechanic	...	1	1	1	1	<i>a</i> „ „ Weekly News	...	3	1	1	1
„ Era	...	1				<i>a</i> Wolverhampton Chronicle	...	1	1	1	
						„ Worcester Herald	...	1			
						„ Work	...	1			1

List of Newspapers, etc., supplied to Reading Rooms.—(Continued.)

NAME.	CENTRAL	KENRICK PARK	HILL TOP	GREYS GREEN	CHURCHFIELD	NAME.	CENTRAL	KENRICK PARK	HILL TOP	GREYS GREEN	CHURCHFIELD
MONTHLY.						<i>a</i> Railway Clerk ...	1				
<i>a</i> Abolitionist ...	1	1	1	1	1	<i>Railway Time Tables—</i>					
<i>a</i> Agricultural Economist ...	1					Bradshaw's Guide ...	1				
<i>a</i> " Record ...	1					<i>a</i> Caledonian ...	1				
<i>a</i> Animals Friend ...	1					<i>a</i> Cambrian ...	1				
<i>a</i> Arbitrator ...	1	1	1	1	1	<i>a</i> Glasgow and South-Western	1				
Art Journal ...	1					<i>a</i> Great Eastern ...	1				
Band of Hope ...	1	1	1	1		<i>a</i> Great Northern ...	1				
<i>a</i> Bluejacket and Soldier	1					<i>a</i> Great Western ...	1				
Boys Own Paper ...				1		<i>a</i> Lancashire and Yorkshire ...	1				
<i>a</i> Britain's Opium Harvest	1					<i>a</i> London and North-Western...	1				
<i>a</i> British Columbia Magazine	1					<i>a</i> Midland ...	1				
British Workman ...	1	1	1	1		<i>a</i> North British ...	1				
Captain ...	1				1	<i>a</i> North Eastern ...	1				
Cassell's Magazine ...	1	1	1	1	1	White and Pike ...	<i>a</i> 1			1	
Century Magazine ...	1	1	1			<i>a</i> Rechabite Magazine ...	1				
Chambers' Journal ...	1	1	1	1	1	<i>a</i> Representation ...	1				
<i>a</i> Child's Guardian ...	1					Review of Reviews ...	1				
<i>a</i> Church Gazette ...	1					Scribner ...	1				
<i>a</i> Clerk of Works Journal	1					St. Nicholas ...	1				
Connoisseur ...	1					<i>a</i> State Correspondent ...	1				
<i>a</i> Conservative and Unionist	1					<i>a</i> Stationer ...	1				
Contemporary Review ...	1					Strand Magazine ...	1	1	1	1	
<i>a</i> Deceased Seamen ...	2					Sunday at Home ...		1	1		
<i>a</i> Educational Times ...	1					<i>a</i> Sunday Closing Reporter	1				
English Illustrated ...	1	1		1		<i>a</i> Travellers Gazette ...	1				
<i>a</i> Foresters' Review ...	1					<i>a</i> Vaccination Inquirer ...	1				
Fortnightly Review ...	1					<i>a</i> Vegetarian Messenger ...	1				
<i>a</i> Good Health ...	1				1	<i>a</i> Vulcan ...	1				
Girls' Own Paper ...	1					Windsor Magazine ...	1	1			1
<i>a</i> G. W. R. Magazine ...	1					Woman at Home ...					1
Harper's Magazine ...	1					Young Man ...					1
<i>a</i> Herald of the Cross ...	1					<i>a</i> Zoophilist ...	1	1	1	1	
<i>a</i> Herald of the Golden Age	1					QUARTERLY.					
<i>a</i> Herald of Health ...	1					<i>a</i> Bird Notes and News ...	1				
<i>a</i> Home ...	1					<i>a</i> Englishwoman's Review	1				
<i>a</i> I.C.S. Student ...	1	1	1	1	1	Hibbert Journal ...	1				
<i>a</i> Insurance Agents' Review	1					<i>a</i> Men's Magazine ...	1				
<i>a</i> Labour Gazette ...	1			1		<i>a</i> Needlework ...	1				
Lady's World ...	1					<i>a</i> Peacemaker ...	1				
<i>a</i> Liberator ...	1					AS PUBLISHED.					
Macfadden's Magazine	1					<i>a</i> Anti-Slavery Report ...	1				
<i>a</i> Musical Herald ...	1					<i>a</i> Civil Service Candidate	1				
National Review ...	1					<i>a</i> Emigration Circulars ...	20	1	1	1	1
<i>a</i> New Church Magazine	1					<i>a</i> Individualist ...	1				
Nineteenth Century ...	1					National Home Reading Union					
<i>a</i> Nursing Notes ...	1					Journals ...	All				
<i>a</i> Patents ...	1					<i>a</i> Queensland Mining Journal	1				
<i>a</i> Positivist Review ...	1					<i>a</i> University Correspondent	1				
<i>a</i> Protestant Observer ...	1										
Quiver ...	1				1						

TABLE I.

SHOWING STOCK IN LIBRARIES AND BRANCH READING ROOMS.

Lending Library.

In Stock previously	...	...	...	11859
Withdrawn	...	...	...	6
Worn out and out of print...	...	...	...	19
Volumes lost by replacement of Works in several volumes, by editions in one volume	...	...	...	10
Total loss ascertained out of issue of 70,775 vols.	...	...	...	0
				35
				11824

Added during the year:—

By Gift	...	...	...	3
„ Purchase	...	...	...	94
„ Transfer from Subscription Library	...	...	...	175
				272

Total Stock in Lending Library 12096

Reference Library.

In Stock previously	...	...	...	4017
Withdrawn	...	...	...	0
				0
				4017

Added during the year:—

By Gift	...	...	...	44
„ Purchase	...	...	...	56
				100

Total Stock in Reference Library 4117

Branch Reading Rooms.

Kenrick Park	...	...	...	370
Hill Top	...	...	...	387
Greets Green	...	...	...	260
Churchfield	...	...	...	73
				1090

Total Stock.

Lending Library	...	...	...	12096
Reference Library	...	...	...	4117
Branch Reading Rooms	...	...	...	1090
Central Reading Room	...	...	...	437
				437

17740

TABLE II.

SHOWING THE NUMBER OF VOLUMES IN EACH CLASS IN REFERENCE
AND LENDING DEPARTMENTS.

Lending Library.

A.	Theology and Philosophy	...	...	672
B.	History, Biography, and Travels	...	...	2900
C.	Law, Politics, and Commerce...	...	...	260
D.	Science, Art, and Natural History	...	...	1074
E.	Poetry and Drama...	...	...	460
F.	Magazines and Reviews	...	...	43
G.	Fiction	...	...	4936
H.	Miscellaneous Literature	...	...	699
J.	Juvenile Literature...	...	...	763
K.	Music	...	...	289
				12096

Reference Library.

A.	Theology and Philosophy	...	...	476
B.	History, Biography, and Travels	...	...	1023
C.	Law, Politics, and Commerce...	...	...	81
D.	Science, Art, and Natural History	...	...	694
E.	Miscellaneous Literature, Encyclo- pædias, etc.	...	...	1699
F.	Poetry and Drama...	...	...	144
				4117
				16213

TABLE III.

Classified Return of the Volumes borrowed from the Lending Library during the Twelve Months ending Sept. 30th, 1911.

DATE.	Days open.	Theology & Philosophy.	History, Biography, and Travels.	Law, Politics and Commerce.	Science and Art.	Poetry and Drama.	Magazines and Reviews.	*Fiction.	Miscellaneous Literature.	*Juvenile Literature.	Music.	Totals.		Daily Average Volumes.	Daily Average Borrowers.
												Vols.	Bor- rowers.		
October 1910 ...	22	92	343	60	418	87	15	4234	156	1006	172	6583	6542	299	297
November ,, ...	22	105	371	83	395	96	19	4162	164	994	165	6554	6506	298	296
December ,, ...	20	89	296	65	347	99	26	4099	148	976	178	6323	6296	316	315
January 1911 ...	22	99	341	73	426	91	21	4319	160	1110	156	6796	6745	309	307
February ,, ...	20	101	341	66	439	88	13	4102	154	1072	156	6532	6488	327	324
March ,, ...	22	97	358	73	439	98	22	4680	167	1211	166	7311	7258	332	330
April ,, ...	19	99	282	70	361	90	19	4199	149	1050	167	6486	6433	341	340
May ,, ...	23	92	303	64	378	86	19	3893	179	1067	179	6260	6227	272	270
June ,, ...	14	64	168	55	199	49	12	2274	105	644	106	3676	3647	263	260
July ,, ...	11	38	114	37	180	33	10	1467	61	501	92	2533	2510	230	228
August ,, ...	21	83	221	61	289	68	18	3179	133	956	130	5138	5116	245	244
September ,, ...	22	93	303	67	383	86	20	4138	165	1169	159	6583	6552	299	298
Totals ...	238	1052	3441	774	4254	971	214	44746	1741	11756	1826	70775	70340	297	296

*Time allowed for reading works of Fiction and Juvenile Literature, 7 days ; all other classes, 14 days.

Occupations of Borrowers admitted to Lending Department during the Year.

Actress	1	Merchants	6
Agents, Collectors, and Travellers	23	Milliners	10
Apprentices	11	Miners	2
Architects and Surveyors	10	Ministers	5
Artists	14	Miscellaneous	75
Assistants	32	Moulders	13
Bakers and Confectioners	2	Musicians	7
Bookbinders	12	No occupations	44
Bootmakers	1	Not stated	91
Builders	10	Nurses	15
Butchers	5	Office Boys	18
Caretakers	4	Painters	11
Carpenters and Joiners	9	Patternmakers	10
Cashiers	4	Photographers	6
Castors	3	Post Office Employees—	
Chemists	16	Males	13
Clerks and Book-keepers—		Females	2
Males	140	Printers	29
Females	67	Railwaymen	12
Doctors	5	Scholars—Boys	97
Drapers	8	„ Girls	75
Draughtsmen	21	School Teachers—Males	50
Dressmakers	17	„ „ Females	74
Electricians	12	„ Masters	19
Engineers and Fitters	46	„ Mistresses	16
Glassworkers	7	Servants—Domestic	21
Grocers	7	Shopkeepers	17
Hairdressers	5	Solicitors	3
Housekeepers	12	Students	46
Inspectors	6	Tailors	5
Ironworkers	19	Typists	22
Labourers	7	Warehousemen	5
Machinists	6	Wives and Daughters	131
Managers	13		
Mechanics	11		
		Total	1516

Ages of New Borrowers.

Under 14	212	35 to 40	85	60 and over	20
14 to 20	380	40 to 45	62	Not stated : Males	65
20 to 25	252	45 to 50	30	„ Females	88
25 to 30	169	50 to 55	13		
30 to 35	128	55 to 60	12	Total	1516

REFERENCE LIBRARY.

TABLE IV.

CLASSIFIED RETURNS OF VOLUMES CONSULTED IN THE REFERENCE
LIBRARY.

During the twelve months ending 30th September, 1911.

DATE.	Days open.	Theology and Philosophy.	History, Biogra- phy and Travels.	Law, Politics and Commerce.	Science, Art and Natural History.	Encyclopaedias, Dictionaries and Miscel. Literature	Poetry and Drama.	Number of Con- sultations.	Number of Readers.
October 1910 ...	22	13	116	26	172	85	25	437	231
November „ ...	22	17	85	25	131	109	12	379	183
December „ ...	20	5	109	13	135	34	17	313	169
January 1911 ...	22	56	104	19	232	87	8	506	244
February „ ...	20	21	54	29	190	69	4	367	198
March „ ...	22	39	112	21	191	109	22	494	220
April „ ...	19	22	77	11	156	71	3	340	203
May „ ...	23	6	64	24	55	69	14	232	164
June „ ...	14	2	58	4	145	49	4	262	132
July „ ...	11	2	42	4	94	33	16	191	141
August „ ...	21	23	87	6	130	60	13	319	201
September „ ...	22	14	73	31	110	30	2	260	153
Totals ...	238	220	981	213	1741	805	140	4100	2239

Occupations of Readers in the Reference Library.

Accountants	1	Miners	2
Actors	7	Miscellaneous	59
Advertisers	4	Moulders	17
Agents, Collectors, and		Musicians	7
Travellers	63	No occupation—Males ...	35
Architects and Surveyors	4	„ „ Females	31
Artists	66	Not stated	115
Assistants	7	Nurses	12
Authors	1	Office Boys	6
Bakers and Confectioners	20	Painters	7
Brassfounders	1	Patentees	20
Builders	11	Patternmakers	3
Butchers	4	Photographers	83
Carpenters and Joiners...	11	Plumbers	15
Cashiers	15	Post Office Employees ...	9
Chemists	59	Printers	17
Clerks and Book-keepers	153	Pupil Teachers	66
Clergymen and Ministers	53	Railwaymen	6
Doctors, Surgeons, etc. ...	5	Scholars	310
Draughtsmen	60	School Masters	122
Editors	10	„ Mistresses	6
Electricians	34	„ Teachers	187
Engineers and Fitters ...	78	Science Teachers	5
Glassworkers	1	Secretaries	10
Inspectors	38	Shopkeepers	17
Insurance	1	Solicitors	1
Ironworkers	22	Students	238
Journalists	26	Tailors	5
Labourers	9	Turners	10
Machinists	5	Typists	4
Managers	17	Whitesmiths	20
Masons	6		
Mechanics	1		
Merchants	1		
		Total	2239

NOTE.—4,100 volumes have been consulted by 2,239 readers, who have made a formal application in writing, but in addition to this, hundreds of References are made to Directories, Gazetteers, Newspapers, etc., of which no record is kept.

Newspapers Filed in the Reference Library.

West Bromwich Free Press.	West Bromwich Chronicle.
West Bromwich Weekly News.	Midland Advertiser.

Copies of the London "Times" and "Birmingham Daily Post" are kept for three months only.

TABLE V.

Showing the Number and Classification of Volumes issued from the Lending Department since 1884.
(Statistics for first ten years may be seen in earlier reports.)

TABLE.	Days open.	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	K	TOTALS.		Aver. Vols.	Average Hours.	
												Volumes	Borrowers.			
Report.	1884-5	1047	3862	141	2081	732	5010	28802	2037	5929	227	49868	48238	218	210	
11th	1885-6	1108	5240	245	2455	876	6023	39566	2412	9405	1004	68334	65738	262	256	
12th	1886-7	983	5067	160	2127	872	5636	39231	2268	8833	732	65009	63347	260	250	
13th	1887-8	235	912	115	1998	708	5555	38497	2002	7687	674	62449	60117	244	235	
14th	1888-9	564	3499	166	2032	628	4754	34796	1358	9867	571	58235	56118	241	232	
15th	1889-90	224	519	2867	132	1836	3994	31497	1296	9020	551	52298	49637	232	221	
16th	1890-1	230	539	3174	124	1650	3703	33085	1202	8334	523	52762	50116	229	217	
17th	1891-2	235	457	2645	107	1531	3008	33203	1199	7943	613	51220	50270	217	213	
18th	1892-3	231	449	2317	167	1626	2763	32198	1198	7751	748	49764	47520	215	205	
19th	1893-4	228	441	2518	139	1735	2879	37773	1203	8403	846	56581	54273	248	238	
20th	1894-5	238	510	2786	143	1618	2905	40739	1229	8906	663	60125	58229	252	244	
21st	1895-6	237	447	2322	108	1624	3117	40503	995	8722	492	58868	57634	229	223	
22nd	1896-7	241	400	2093	106	1469	3222	36949	1018	7461	627	55730	52443	223	216	
23rd	1897-8	238	335	2024	667	1237	62412	35218	1903	6000	666	49146	47682	207	200	
24th	1898-9	242	253	1342	45	957	1617	35392	667	4885	579	45899	45051	189	186	
25th	1899-1900	239	150	1336	78	783	772	33163	505	4652	449	42034	41379	176	173	
26th	1900-1	238	554	2758	267	2074	235	35080	1116	6194	970	49086	49094	209	206	
27th	1901-2	240	648	3278	519	2622	310	33286	1869	7038	1608	51608	51235	215	213	
28th	1902-3	241	772	3461	401	3510	295	38189	1820	7202	2012	58179	57879	241	240	
29th	1903-4	240	829	3687	490	4138	372	37134	1537	6919	2086	57992	57841	242	241	
30th	1904-5	240	768	3870	442	4244	311	42654	1472	9113	2145	65731	65644	274	273	
31st	1905-6	239	733	3641	606	4011	254	44961	1653	9443	1917	67942	67847	284	284	
32nd	1906-7	220	775	3340	598	3985	224	42902	1552	10759	1816	66683	66593	303	303	
33rd	1907-8	242	946	3616	648	4152	325	47532	1777	10075	1959	71922	71772	298	297	
34th	1908-9	237	980	3629	628	4272	301	46911	1679	11497	1931	72693	72470	307	306	
35th	1909-10	237	976	3379	730	4025	253	45505	1721	10500	1716	69753	69305	294	292	
36th	1910-11	238	1052	3441	774	4254	214	44746	1741	11756	1826	70775	70340	297	296	
TOTALS	...	8910	33889	140465	9960	90987	27787	119145	1473347	67620	280124	29951	2273275	2133751	233	217

^a Borrowers can retain Musical Works two weeks.

^b Since January, 1894, the time allowed for reading Theological and Philosophical Works has been extended from one to two weeks.
^c Since January, 1894, the time allowed for reading Scientific Works has been extended from one to two weeks.
^d Since November 1897, the time allowed for reading books in all classes, *excepting G and J*, has been extended to two weeks.

TABLE VI.

SHOWING THE NUMBER AND CLASSIFICATION OF VOLUMES CONSULTED
IN THE REFERENCE DEPARTMENT SINCE OPENING.

TABLE.	Days open	A	B	C	D	E	F	No. of Consultations.	No. of Readers
1st Report, 1874	56	68	113	3	108	88	...	380	...
2nd " 1875-6	258	84	112	14	179	223	...	612	...
3rd " 1876-7	254	59	240	1	291	364	...	955	419
4th " 1877-8	256	69	395	20	276	379	...	1139	542
5th " 1878-9	256	121	326	6	340	718	...	1511	566
6th " 1879-80	252	215	308	3	332	881	...	1739	557
7th " 1880-1	210	239	224	1	222	419	...	1105	392
8th " 1881-2	257	315	243	9	230	389	...	1186	196
9th " 1882-3	253	209	190	3	147	275	...	824	161
10th { Mar 27 to Sep 30 '83	132	82	104	3	108	172	...	469	...
Rept. { Oct 1 '83--Sep 30 '84	256	265	171	7	163	307	...	913	...
11th " 1884-5	229	279	116	5	219	333	...	952	191
12th " 1885-6	257	384	487	20	218	988	...	2097	242
13th " 1886-7	253	299	341	21	311	781	...	1753	246
14th " 1887-8	255	150	536	11	329	1617	...	2643	279
15th " 1888-9	241	170	532	19	696	1142	...	2559	244
16th " 1889-90	224	187	407	23	737	980	...	2334	162
17th " 1890-1	230	42	423	21	853	619	...	1958	359
18th " 1891-2	218	111	226	12	842	621	...	1812	128
19th " 1892-3	231	91	163	4	443	586	...	1287	127
20th " 1893-4	228	52	152	6	284	466	...	960	130
21st " 1894-5	238	21	107	2	185	299	...	614	109
22nd " 1895-6	257	101	64	0	178	192	...	535	88
23rd " 1896-7	241	161	74	6	124	143	...	448	99
24th " 1897-8	238	35	46	2	146	171	...	400	105
25th " 1898-9	242	47	48	0	94	249	...	438	99
26th " 1899-1900	239	15	108	13	164	196	...	496	190
27th " 1900-1	238	87	625	33	306	488	...	1539	586
28th " 1901-2	240	118	446	44	464	500	...	1572	779
29th " 1902-3	241	243	929	71	716	615	...	2574	1532
30th " 1903-4	240	175	614	44	546	533	70	1982	1088
31st " 1904-5	240	141	593	63	615	578	190	2180	1050
32nd " 1905-6	239	167	874	69	595	475	114	2294	1175
33rd " 1906-7	220	207	930	177	775	392	227	2708	1146
34th " 1907-8	242	254	1141	209	1081	1044	219	3948	1771
35th " 1908-9	237	236	883	213	1036	1097	210	3675	1589
36th " 1909-10	237	208	1026	175	1541	709	217	3876	1719
37th " 1910-11	238	220	981	213	1741	805	140	4100	2239
TOTALS	8873	5867	15298	1546	17635	20834	1387	62567	20305

READING ROOMS.

Open from 9 a.m. to 9-30 p.m. daily.

CENTRAL.

The average daily attendance of readers is estimated at 2,000.

437 volumes are accessible to the public for use in the Reading Room only.

BRANCH No. 1—KENRICK PARK.

A Reading and News Room was opened at 215, Spon Lane, on the 1st January, 1883.

This Reading Room was transferred to the New Buildings, Kenrick Park, on Monday, the 28th September, 1903.

370 volumes are accessible to the public, for use in the Reading Room only.

BRANCH No. 2—HILL TOP.

A Reading and News Room was opened on Monday, January 15th, 1883, at the office originally occupied by Mr. F. W. Topham.

This Reading Room was transferred to the New Public Buildings, Hill Top, on Monday, the 20th June, 1898.

387 volumes are accessible to the public, for use in the Reading Room only.

BRANCH No. 3—GREET'S GREEN.

The Reading and News Room, which was opened on Wednesday, the 17th January, 1883, at No. 1, Great Bridge, was removed to the entrance to the Recreation Ground, Greet's Green, and opened on Monday, 1st August, 1892.

260 volumes are accessible to the public, for use in the Reading Room only.

BRANCH No. 4—CHURCHFIELD.

A Reading and News Room was opened at 56, Tenscore Street, on Monday, 4th March, 1907.

73 volumes are accessible to the public, for use in the Reading Room only.

DONATIONS OF BOOKS, Etc.

Bache, Councillor C. S., Kidderminster Road, Hagley—
5 volumes.

Bennett and Co., Granville Street, Birmingham—
Business Directory.

Blades, Alderman J. H., J.P., Oakhurst, West Bromwich—
Alliance News (Weekly) to Greets Green Branch.

*Board of Trade, Commission for Labour, 44, Parliament Street,
London—*
Reports as published.

British Museum Authorities—

Catalogue of African Freshwater Fishes. Vol. II.
Catalogue of Engraved British Portraits. Vols. I. and II.
Catalogue of Marine Reptiles of the Oxford Clay.
Catalogue of Moths. Vols. IX. and X.
Guide to British Vertebrates.
Guide to Crustacea, etc.
Guide to Field and Cultivated Mushrooms.
Handbook to Tsetse Flies.
Library Catalogue. Vol. III.

Browne, Councillor H. L., Moor House, West Bromwich—
Medical Register, 1910.
Dentists' Register, 1910.
33 miscellaneous volumes.

Burch, H., Queen Street, West Bromwich—
Document giving old Census Statistics of West Bromwich.

Chesshire, Alderman J. H., Oakwood, West Bromwich—
England's Choice; Master or the Priest.

Durning-Lawrence, Sir E., Tate Library, London—
Bacon is Shakespeare (5 copies).

Emigrants' Information Office, 31, Broadway, Westminster—
Handbooks respecting Emigration, chiefly to the British Colonies

*Health Resorts Association, 29, John Street, Bedford Row, London,
W.C.—*
Guides.

*High Commissioner for New Zealand, 13, Victoria Street, London,
S.W.—*
Miscellaneous Literature relating to New Zealand.

*Iron and Steel Institute, per G. C. Lloyd, 28, Victoria Street,
London, S.W.—*
Iron and Steel Institute Journals and List of Members.

- Knibbs, G. H., Commonwealth of Australia Office, 72, Victoria St., Westminster, S.W.—*
 Official Year Book of Australia, 1910.
- Layton, Messrs. C. and E., 56, Farringdon Street, E.C.—*
 Handy Newspaper List.
 Insurance Register.
- Library Reports (about 200).*
- Library Catalogues (various).*
- Line, C. A., 39, Beaufort Road, Birmingham—*
 Oxide of Zinc, by Smith.
- Macdonald and Co., Ltd., London Road, Edinburgh—*
 English Directory, 1910.
- Mann, J. C., West Bromwich—*
 Journal of Chemical Society, 1910.
- National Union of Teachers (per the Secretary), 67, Russell Square, London, W.C.—*
 Report, etc., for 1911.
- Patent Office Comptroller, 25, Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane—*
 Illustrated Official Journal.
- Paton, Messrs. J. and J., 143, Cannon Street, London, E.C.—*
 List of Schools and Tutors.
 Guide to Continental Schools.
- Publishers and Proprietors for Reading Rooms—*
 Publications are denoted by an (a) on pages 9 and 10.
- Roscoe, F., University, Birmingham—*
 Many Memories, by Carnac.
- Royal Insurance Co., Ltd., 7, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham—*
 Record of Sports.
- Sherwell, J. H., Lombard Street, West Bromwich—*
 Burgess List, 1911-12.
- Silvester, Rev. J., Clacton-on-Sea—*
 Spiritual Year (Poems).
 Lecture on Revolution of 1688.
- Smithsonian Institution (per C. D. Walcott), Washington, U.S.A.—*
 Smithsonian Institution Report, 1909.
- Spiers, J., 1, Bloomsbury Street, London, W.C.—*
 Transactions of the International Swedenborg Congress, 1910.
- Spencer, T., Island House, Handsworth—*
 Copies of Nineteenth Century Magazine.
- Stubbs Publishing Co., Ltd., New Broad Street, London, E.C.—*
 Directory, 1911.

University, Birmingham, per the Secretary—
Calendar, 1910-11.

University, London, per the General Editor—
Calendar and Guide, 1911.

University of Wales (Cardiff), per the Registrar—
Calendar, 1910-11.

West Bromwich Corporation, per the Town Clerk—
Burgess Roll, Parliamentary Register, and Parochial Register.

*West Bromwich Corporation, per G. W. Davis, Inspector of Weights
and Measures—*
Report for the year ending 31st March, 1911.

West Bromwich Corporation, per T. Hudson—
Abstract of Accounts for the year ending 31st March, 1911.

*West Bromwich Corporation, per Dr. H. Manley, Medical Officer
of Health—*
Report of the Health of the County Borough.





FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

April 1st, 1910, to

March 31st, 1911.



RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS from

To RECEIPTS.

£ s. d. £ s. d.

MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT.

BOROUGH RATE—

Amount of Rate Aid for the year, at One Penny in the £	862	15	4
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	----	---

CENTRAL LIBRARY.

Fines	...	...	...	...	42	1	5
Membership Forms	...	...	...	...	6	14	0
Damage to Books	...	...	...	...		11	7
Sale of Papers	...	...	...	...	14	0	2
Sale of Catalogues	...	...	...	...	3	5	4
Sale of Old Books	...	...	...	...		16	6
Hire of Lecture Room	...	...	...	...	35	13	3
University Extension Lectures: Receipts	...	...	...	...	19	17	3
						122	19 6

SPON LANE BRANCH READING ROOM.

Sale of Papers		1	4 2
----------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	--	---	--------

HILL TOP BRANCH READING ROOM.

Sale of Papers		1	2 4
----------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	--	---	--------

GREETS GREEN BRANCH READING ROOM.

Sale of Papers		1	7 7
----------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	--	---	--------

CHURCHFIELDS BRANCH READING ROOM.

Rent	...	...	...	...	7	4	0
Sale of Papers	...	...	...	...		13	6
						7	17 6

TOTAL RECEIPTS ...

£997 6 5

1st April, 1910, to 31st March, 1911.

By PAYMENTS.

£ s. d. £ s. d.

MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT.

CENTRAL LIBRARY.

Salaries and Wages	...	...	...	380	7	2		
Additional Books, and Books to replace those worn out	...	...	...	66	13	5		
Bookbinding	...	...	...	18	0	11		
Newspapers and Magazines	...	...	...	57	13	6		
Advertising, Printing and Stationery	...	...	...	22	0	1		
Electric Light, Current and Fittings	...	...	...	94	14	5		
Water	...	...	...	4	0	0		
Insurance Premiums	...	...	...	5	3	6		
Subscriptions to various Societies	...	...	...	4	4	4		
Uniform for Caretaker	...	...	...		16	6		
Repairs to Buildings	...	...	...	79	4	7		
Petty Disbursements and Sundries	...	...	...	62	7	2		
University Extension Lectures	...	...	...	45	0	0		
							840	5 7

SPON LANE BRANCH READING ROOM.

Rent, Heating and Lighting	...	...	...	35	0	0		
Newspapers and Magazines	...	...	...	14	2	1		
							49	2 1

HILL TOP BRANCH READING ROOM.

Newspapers and Magazines				12	14 0
--------------------------	-----	-----	-----	--	--	--	----	------

GREET'S GREEN BRANCH READING ROOM.

Rent, Heating and Lighting	...	...	...	35	0	0		
Newspapers and Magazines	...	...	...	14	13	9		
							49	13 9

CHURCHFIELDS BRANCH READING ROOM.

Rent, Heating and Lighting	...	...	...	34	0	2		
Newspapers and Books	...	...	...	9	18	1		
Repairs	...	...	...	19	6			
							44	17 9

TOTAL PAYMENTS ... 996 13 2

Receipts in excess of Payments ... 13 3

£997 6 5

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE from

ACCOUNTS.	PAYMENTS.	LIABILITIES						EXPENDITURE from 1st April, 1910, to 31st March, 1911.
		INCURRED BUT NOT PAID						
		31st March, 1910.			31st March, 1911.			
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
Central Library ...	840 5 7	93 4 8	71 9 9	818 10 8				
Spon Lane Branch ...	49 2 1	3 9 3	3 7 8	49 0 6				
Hill Top Branch ...	12 14 0	3 3 3	3 1 9	12 12 6				
Greets Green Branch ...	49 13 9	3 12 9	3 10 7	49 11 7				
Churchfields Branch ...	44 17 9	2 9 0	5 13 10	48 2 7				
	996 13 2	105 18 11	87 3 7	977 17 10				
		87 3 7						
		18 15 4						
<hr/>								
BALANCE, 31st March, 1911—								
	£ s. d.							
In hands of Treasurer								
31st March, 1911	312 17 3							
Less —								
In hands of Treasurer								
31st March, 1910	312 4 0							
<hr/>								
Receipts in excess of Payments	13 3							
<hr/>								
Income in excess of Expenditure				19 8 7				
<hr/>								
	£997 6 5			£997 6 5				

CAPITAL

To RECEIPTS. £ s. d.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY

ANDREW CARNEGIE, Esq., LL.D.—

Donation of full cost of building	New	Free	
Public Library ... ..	...	...	7714 16 3

REVENUE ACCOUNT—

Appropriation of accumulated surplus of Penny Rate to defray cost of furnishing and equipping	New	Free	
Public Library ... ..	...	...	1200 0 0

£8,914 16 3

SPECIAL BOOK

To RECEIPTS. £ s. d.

Balance brought forward	46 17 5
-------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---------

£46 17 5

ACCOUNT.

BY PAYMENTS.

£ s. d.

BUILDING ACCOUNT.

NEW FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1907.

Cost of Construction and Equipment	8914	16	3
------------------------------------	-----	-----	------	----	---

£8,914 16 3

FUND ACCOUNT.

BY PAYMENTS.

£ s. d.

Cost of Books purchased during the year	1	5	0
---	-----	-----	---	---	---

BALANCE, 31st March, 1911—

In hands of Treasurer	45	12	5
-----------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	----	----	---

£46 17 5

BALANCE SHEET—

LIABILITIES.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
CAPITAL ACCOUNT.									
TRUST ACCOUNT—									
Gift of Andrew Carnegie, Esq., LL.D., of full cost of construction of New Library ...				7714	16	3			
BALANCE, being Appropriation from Revenue Account to defray cost of furnishing and equipment of New Free Public Library ...				1200	0	0			
							8914	16	3
SPECIAL ACCOUNT.									
SPECIAL BOOK FUND ACCOUNT—									
Unexpended balance							45	12	5
REVENUE ACCOUNT.									
SUNDRY CREDITORS for balances due to them ...				87	3	7			
PRESENT SURPLUS—									
Income in excess of Expenditure to 31st March, 1910	206	5	1						
Add—Income in excess of Expenditure for year ended 31st March, 1911	19	8	7						
				225	13	8			
							312	17	3
THOS. HUDSON, BOROUGH TREASURER.									
GUILDFORD O. HODGES, LIBRARIAN AND SECRETARY.									
							£	9273	5 11

31st March, 1911.

ASSETS.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
CAPITAL ACCOUNT.		
NEW FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDINGS—		
Complete cost of construction and equipment	8914 16 3	
		8914 16 3
SPECIAL ACCOUNT.		
SPECIAL BOOK FUND ACCOUNT—		
CASH in hands of Treasurer ... ..	...	45 12 5
REVENUE ACCOUNT.		
CASH in hands of Treasurer ... ..	...	312 17 3
Audited and found correct,		
GEO. T. COLEMAN, F.C.A., } CLEMENT KEYS, A.C.A., } Auditors.		
	£ 9273 5 11	

County Borough of West Bromwich.



38th ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Free Library Committee.

PRESENTED TO THE TOWN COUNCIL,

November, 1912.

FORM OF BEQUEST.

I bequeath out of such part of my personal estate as may by Law be bequeathed for such purposes, to the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of West Bromwich, in the County of Staffordshire, the sum of

free from Legacy Duty, for the benefit of the Public Libraries of the said Borough, to be expended in such way as the Committee for the time being may deem expedient; and I direct that the receipt of the Treasurer for the time being of the said Borough shall be an effectual discharge for the same Legacy.

AREA, 5,860 ACRES.
POPULATION IN 1911, 68,345.
HOUSES, 15,179.
RATEABLE VALUE, £234,906 10s. 0d.

Chronological History.

- 1870 Public Libraries Act unanimously adopted, 30th November.
1873 Mr. P. D. Bennett appointed first Chairman, 7th January.
1874 D. Dickinson appointed Librarian, 13th February.
1874 Central Newsroom opened, 31st August.
1875 Lending Library opened 15th February.
1875 Reference Library opened, 15th March.
1876 Henry Williams, Esq., appointed Chairman, 21st June.
1882 Mr. C. H. Bayley, Hon. Secretary, died in November.
1882 Librarian appointed Secretary.
1883 Branch Reading Room opened, Spon Lane, 1st January.
1883 " " " Hill Top, 15th January.
1883 " " " Greets Green, 17th January.
1884 Subscription Library formed and opened, 1st January.
1891 Mr. J. Manley appointed Chairman, 18th November.
1892 Branch Reading Room at Great Bridge transferred to Farley Park, Greets Green, 1st August.
1895 Permission granted to the Science and Art Masters to borrow books from the Reference Library for the use of Students at the Institute, 18th December; cancelled, July, 1902.
1898 Branch Reading Room at Hill Top transferred to the Park at Hill Top in July.
1900 Death of Mr. D. Dickinson, 8th March. (First Librarian.)
1900 Mr. Guildford O. Hodges appointed Librarian, 6th April.
1902 Councillor H. L. Browne appointed Chairman, 12th February.
1902 Fifth Edition of Lending Library Catalogue Published, April.
1903 Spon Lane Reading Room transferred to Kenrick Park in September.
1905 Dr. Andrew Carnegie offers £7,500 for a new Library, 24th June.
1905 Dr. Andrew Carnegie's offer accepted by Town Council, 5th July.
1906 Foundation Stone of New Free Library laid, April 27th, by Councillor H. Langley Browne, M.D.
1907 Branch Reading Room opened, Churchfield, 4th March.
1907 New Central Library opened, 10th June, by His Worship the Mayor, Councillor J. E. Wilson, J.P.
1907 Reference Library "Sheaf" Catalogue Published. June.
1908 Memorial Tablet to D. C. Murray, erected December.
1909 Sixth Edition of Lending Library Catalogue, Published; also Juvenile Catalogue.
1909 First Mural Decoration fixed September, the gift of John Spencer, Esq., J.P.
1910 First Course of University Extension Lectures given.
1910 Students' Tickets introduced. September.
1911 Two further Mural Panels, painted by Mr. Wilkinson.
1912 Fourth Mural Panel, presented by Members of Subscription Library.

1911-12.

Committee.

COUNCILLOR H. L. BROWNE, M.D., LL.D. (CHAIRMAN).

REV. J. W. JONES, M.A. (DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN).

ALDERMAN J. H. BLADES, J.P.

COUNCILLOR J. A. KENRICK (MAYOR).

COUNCILLOR J. ANDERSON.

COUNCILLOR J. WHEATLEY.

MR. A. CADDICK

MR. J. A. PEARCE

MR. J. G. GIFFORD

DR. H. B. W. PLUMMER, M.D.

REV. F. A. HOMER

MR. H. TOMBLIN

DR. H. MANLEY, M.A., M.D.

MR. W. S. WATTS

—:o:—

Book-Buying and Emergency Committee.

COUNCILLOR H. L. BROWNE, M.D., LL.D.

COUNCILLOR J. A. KENRICK (MAYOR).

COUNCILLOR J. ANDERSON.

MR. A. CADDICK.

REV. J. W. JONES, M.A.

DR. H. B. W. PLUMMER, M.D.

—:o:—

Librarian and Secretary.

GUILDFORD O. HODGES, F.L.A.

—:o:—

Assistants.

JOSEPH WOODHALL.

MISS M. A. REEVES

MISS N. BAYLISS

MISS M. HARRIS.

—:o:—

CARETAKER:—WILLIAM DAVIS.

—:o:—

Branches.

CARETAKER, No. 1—KENRICK PARK: J. C. COOPER.

„ No. 2—HILL TOP: J. WHITEHOUSE.

„ No. 3—GREET'S GREEN: H. JONES.

„ No. 4—CHURCHFIELD: J. WOODHALL.

THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

OF THE

West Bromwich Public Library.

*TO HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR AND CORPORATION OF
THE BOROUGH OF WEST BROMWICH.*

SIR AND GENTLEMEN,

In submitting the Thirty-eighth Annual Report, the Committee are pleased to record the fact that the Libraries have maintained their popularity and usefulness. The public have exhibited a much more active interest in the welfare and progress of the institution, as well as a keener appreciation of the advantages now afforded by it. The work of the Libraries goes on increasing year by year, which is a clear token of public appreciation, and as far as funds will allow, the Committee have done what they could to meet the public demand.

COMMITTEE.—The only alteration on the Committee was the election of Mr. J. A. Pearce to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. W. Freeth.

LENDING DEPARTMENT.

During the year there has been added to this department, by purchase, 125 volumes; by presentation, 7; by transfer from Subscription Library, 163; total, 295.

STOCK.—Much care and attention has been given to the selection of new books, and suggestions from readers (with regard to books which they would like to see added to the Library) are welcomed and always carefully considered.

STOCK-TAKING.—The Libraries were closed for Stock-taking on July 1st, and re-opened on July 15th, and although 76,807 volumes had been issued during the year, no loss whatever has occurred.

During the closed period all shelves were cleaned and all books dusted and examined.

ISSUES.—For home reading and study 76,256 borrowers have borrowed 76,807 volumes, the daily average for the year being 321. This is not only an increase on last year's figures, but constitutes a record, the previous highest number of volumes issued in one year being 72,693 in 1908-9.

BORROWERS' CARDS.—1,350 new cards were issued this year, and 84 Students' Tickets; the student's ticket enables a borrower to have a second book from any class other than from Fiction or Juvenile, as well as the book on the ordinary ticket.

The actual number of borrowers' cards in use on September 30th, 1912, was 2,950, against 2,852 last year, an increase of 98 borrowers.

CONDITION OF BOOKS.—288 worn-out and obsolete books have been withdrawn, 248 volumes have been replaced by new copies, 244 have been re-bound, and 1,448 have been repaired on the premises by the Library staff. The heavy circulation of the books inevitably involves considerable wear and tear. In order to maintain the satisfactory condition of the books, the work of examining the stock is constantly in progress.

This department now consists of 12,103 volumes.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

A good Reference Library is the most important side of the educational work of a Public Library.

Many students have no opportunity of obtaining these books, and would have to go without the knowledge contained therein, if they could not use them in the Library. It is therefore gratifying to report that the work of this department has again been one of steady progress and efficient service, the number of readers being higher than in any previous year.

CONSULTATIONS.—3,940 volumes were consulted by 2,262 readers, against 4,100 volumes by 2,239 readers the previous year, a decrease of 160 volumes, but an increase of 23 readers.

No record is kept of the hundreds of references made to directories, year-books, calendars, magazines, etc., which are upon the public shelves in the Central Reading Room.

STOCK.—During the year 54 volumes were added to this department; by purchase, 41; by gift, 6; by transfer from Lending Library, 7.

This department now consists of 4,171 volumes.

READING ROOMS.

The Central and Branch Reading Rooms continue to be well patronised. The daily average attendance at the Central is over 2,000.

On the whole the conduct of the readers is satisfactory. It is noticed that all the papers and magazines are particularly well used.

MISCELLANEA.

RE-DECORATING.—The re-decorating of the interior of the Central Library has very much improved its appearance. The work was done in sections in such a way that it was unnecessary to close the departments, and very little inconvenience was experienced.

MURAL PAINTINGS.—A fourth Mural Panel has been fixed up in the Central Hall, painted by Mr. S. C. Rowles, of the local Art School, representing "Oratory." This was presented by the members of the Subscription Library.

A large one is being painted by Mr. Rowles, representing the "Introduction of the Printing Press into England," or Caxton at work at Westminster.

WILD FLOWER STAND.—During the spring and summer months the stand for Wild Flowers in the public corridor has again been in charge of the Naturalists' Association, and the exhibits have been appreciated.

HOLIDAY INFORMATION.—The collection of holiday literature placed at the disposal of the public, during the summer months, was found to be valuable, and was in constant use during the holiday season.

CONCLUSION.—In reviewing the work of the past year, the Committee feel that the Institution has maintained its usefulness to residents. The members of the Library Staff have carried out their duties efficiently, and have rendered much assistance to readers by replying to the innumerable queries for information upon many varied subjects with which each day they are confronted.

ATTENDANCES.

There have been eleven meetings of the Committee and one Sub-Committee meeting, the attendance of the members being as follows:—

	Summoned.		Attended.	
The Mayor (Councillor J. A. Kenrick) ...	12	...	4	
Alderman J. H. Blades ...	11	...	4	
Councillor H. Langley Browne (Chairman)...	12	...	12	
Councillor J. Anderson... ..	12	...	10	
Councillor J. Wheatley	11	...	7	
Mr. Alfred Caddick	12	...	1	
Mr. W. Freeth (died, February, 1912) ...	6	...	4	
Mr. J. G. Gifford	11	...	4	
Rev. F. A. Homer	11	...	3	
Rev. J. W. Jones (Deputy-Chairman) ...	12	...	10	
Dr. Herbert Manley	12	...	0	
Mr. J. A. Pearce (appointed April, 1912) ...	4	...	3	
Dr. H. B. W. Plummer	11	...	8	
Mr. H. Tomblin	11	...	8	
Mr. W. S. Watts	11	...	8	

Signed on behalf of the Free Library Committee,

H. LANGLEY BROWNE, Chairman.

GUILDFORD O. HODGES, Librarian.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES AND PERIODICALS SUPPLIED TO THE READING ROOMS.

(Those marked *a* are presented.)

NAME.	CENTRAL	KENRICK PARK	HILL TOP	GRETS GREEN	CHURCHFIELD	NAME.	CENTRAL	KENRICK PARK	HILL TOP	GRETS GREEN	CHURCHFIELD
DAILY.											
Birmingham—Evening Despatch	1	1	1	1	1	<i>a</i> Evesham Journal	...	1			
„ Gazette	2	1	1	1	1	Exchange and Mart	...	1			
„ Mail	3	2	1	1	2	Fishing Gazette	...	1			
„ Post	3	1	1	1	1	Garden	...		1		
Daily Herald	...	1				Gardening	...	1			
Daily Mirror	...	1				Gas World	...	1			
Daily Sketch	...	1				Gentlewoman	...	1			
Liverpool Mercury	...	1				Good Words	...		1	1	
London—Chronicle	...	1		1		Graphic	...	1	1	1	1
„ Daily Mail	...	1	1	1	1	<i>a</i> Grocers' Review	...	1			
„ Daily News	...	1	1	1	1	Illustrated London News	...	1	1	1	1
„ Standard	...	1	1	1	1	<i>a</i> India	...	1			
„ Telegraph	...	1				<i>a</i> Investors' Guardian	...	1			
„ Times	...	1				<i>a</i> Iron and Coal Trades Review	...	1			
Manchester Guardian	...	1				<i>a</i> Isle of Wight Guardian	...	1			
Midland Evening News	...	1				<i>a</i> Kidderminster Shuttle	...	1			
Yorkshire Post	...	1				<i>a</i> Labour Leader	...	1			
Wolverhampton—Evening Ex- press and Star	...	1	1	1	1	Ladies' Field	...	1			
WEEKLY.						Lady	...	1			
<i>a</i> Alliance News	...			1		Lady's Pictorial	...	1			
American Machinist	...	1				<i>a</i> Local Government Chronicle	...	1			
Architect	...	1				<i>a</i> Local Government Journal	...	1			
Athenæum	...	1				<i>a</i> Machinery Market	...	1			
Birmingham Weekly Mercury	...	1				<i>a</i> Midland Advertiser	...	3	1	1	1
<i>a</i> Blackpool Herald	...	1				<i>a</i> Midland Counties Herald	...	1			
<i>a</i> Blackpool Gazette and News	...	1				Mining Journal	...	1			
<i>a</i> Blackpool Times	...	1				<i>a</i> Motor Traction	...	1			
<i>a</i> Board of Trade Journal	...	1				Nature	...	1			
Bookseller	...	1				<i>a</i> Patents (Illustrated Official Jnl.)	...	1			
<i>a</i> Bournemouth Visitors' Directory	...	1				<i>a</i> Phonetic Journal	...	1	1	1	1
Boys Own Paper	...	1	1			Photographic News	...	1			
Builder	...	1				Photography and Focus	...	1			
Building News	...	1				<i>a</i> Practical Engineer	...	1			
„ World	...			1		<i>a</i> Present Truth	...	1			
<i>a</i> Canada	...	1				Punch	...	1	1	1	1
<i>a</i> Canadian Gazette	...	1				Queen	...	1			
<i>a</i> Civil Service Aspirant	...	1				<i>a</i> School Government Chronicle	...	1			
Clarion	...	1				Scotsman	...	1			
<i>a</i> Clark's Educator	...	1				Smallholder	...	1			1
<i>a</i> Colliery Guardian	...	1				<i>a</i> Smethwick Telephone	...	1			
<i>a</i> Common Cause	...	1				Spectator	...	1			
<i>a</i> Contract Journal	...	1				Sphere	...	1			
<i>a</i> Contractors' Record	...	1				Sporting and Dramatic News	...	1			
<i>a</i> Drapers' Record	...	1		1		Staffordshire Advertiser	...	1			
Dublin Freeman	...	1				Truth	...	1			
<i>a</i> Dudley Herald	...	1				<i>a</i> Warwickshire Advertiser	...	1			
Electrical Review	...	1				<i>a</i> Wednesbury Herald	...	1			
Engineer	...	1	1	1		Wellington Journal	...	1			
Engineering	...	1				<i>a</i> West Bromwich Chronicle	...	3	1	1	1
<i>a</i> English Churchman	...	1				<i>a</i> „ „ Free Press	...	4	1	1	1
„ Mechanic	...	1	1	1	1	<i>a</i> „ „ Weekly News	...	3	1	1	1
Era	...	1				<i>a</i> Wolverhampton Chronicle	...	1	1	1	
						<i>a</i> Worcester Herald	...	1			
						Work	...	1			1

[illegible]

TABLE I.

SHOWING STOCK IN LIBRARIES AND BRANCH READING ROOMS.

Lending Library.

In Stock previously	...	...	...	12096
Withdrawn	...	...	...	201
Worn out and out of print...	...	...	...	87
Volumes lost by replacement of Works in several volumes, by editions in one volume				0
Total loss ascertained out of issue of 76,807 vols.				0
				<hr/> 288
				<hr/> 11808

Added during the year:—

By Gift	...	...	...	7
„ Purchase	...	...	...	125
„ Transfer from Subscription Library	...	...	...	163
				<hr/> 295

Total Stock in Lending Library

 12103**Reference Library.**

In Stock previously	...	...	...	4117
Withdrawn	...	...	...	0
				<hr/> 0
				<hr/> 4117

Added during the year:—

By Gift	...	...	...	6
„ Purchase	...	...	...	41
„ Transfer from Lending Library	...	...	...	7
				<hr/> 54

Total Stock in Reference Library

 4171**Branch Reading Rooms.**

Kenrick Park	...	...	...	300
Hill Top	...	...	...	388
Greets Green	...	...	...	223
Churchfield	...	...	...	80
				<hr/> 991

Total Stock.

Lending Library	...	...	...	12103
Reference Library	...	...	...	4171
Branch Reading Rooms	...	...	...	991
Central Reading Room	...	...	...	433
				<hr/> 433
				<hr/> 17698
				<hr/> <hr/>

TABLE II.

SHOWING THE NUMBER OF VOLUMES IN EACH CLASS IN REFERENCE
AND LENDING DEPARTMENTS.

Lending Library.

A.	Theology and Philosophy	...	...	621
B.	History, Biography, and Travels	...	...	2871
C.	Law, Politics, and Commerce...	...	...	269
D.	Science, Art, and Natural History	...	...	1113
E.	Poetry and Drama...	...	...	462
F.	Magazines and Reviews	...	...	—
G.	Fiction	...	...	4990
H.	Miscellaneous Literature	...	...	706
J.	Juvenile Literature...	...	...	780
K.	Music	...	...	291
				12103

Reference Library.

A.	Theology and Philosophy	...	...	476
B.	History, Biography, and Travels	...	...	1035
C.	Law, Politics, and Commerce...	...	...	81
D.	Science, Art, and Natural History	...	...	727
E.	Miscellaneous Literature, Encyclo- pædias, etc.	...	...	1708
F.	Poetry and Drama	...	...	144
				4171
				16274

TABLE III.

Classified Return of the Volumes borrowed from the Lending Library during the Twelve Months ending Sept. 30th, 1912.

DATE.	Days open.	Theology & Philosophy.	History, Biography, and Travels.	Law, Politics and Commerce.	Science and Art.	Poetry and Drama.	Magazines and Reviews.	*Fiction.	Miscellaneous Literature.	*Juvenile Literature.	Totals.		Daily Average Volumes.	Daily Average Borrowers.
											Vols.	Borrowers.		
October 1911 ...	22	79	295	47	422	84	11	4437	171	1206	6905	6872	314	313
November , , ...	21	89	359	60	406	74	8	4487	208	1161	7021	6971	334	332
December , , ...	20	84	292	65	356	86	13	4355	136	1183	6755	6717	338	336
January 1912 ...	23	73	349	77	457	84	22	4761	166	1262	7433	7374	323	321
February , , ...	20	100	366	84	393	91	11	4701	143	1249	7274	7231	364	362
March , , ...	22	102	415	77	476	114	14	5442	157	1376	8345	8281	379	376
April , , ...	20	77	338	86	399	70	12	4582	161	1170	7059	6985	353	349
May , , ...	21	71	310	84	424	91	10	4412	133	1096	6791	6731	323	321
June , , ...	15	43	201	44	256	39	0	2895	106	560	4253	4228	284	282
July , , ...	13	43	165	40	234	34	0	1825	75	506	2999	2982	231	229
August , , ...	21	81	261	58	339	64	0	3774	145	885	5753	5708	274	272
September , , ...	21	72	321	68	427	82	0	3994	156	930	6219	6176	296	294
Totals ...	239	914	3672	790	4589	913	101	49665	1757	12584	76807	76256	321	315

*Time allowed for reading works of Fiction and Juvenile Literature, **7** days ; all other classes, **14** days.

Occupations of Borrowers admitted to Lending Department during the year.

Actresses	6	Milliners	7
Agents, Collectors, and Travellers	14	Miners	1
Apprentices	5	Ministers	11
Architects and Surveyors	6	Miscellaneous	118
Artists	6	Moulders	16
Assistants	42	Musicians	5
Bakers and Confectioners	2	No occupations	36
Bookbinders	8	Not stated	136
Bootmakers	5	Nurses	10
Builders	1	Office Boys	13
Butchers	5	Packers	4
Caretakers	0	Painters	12
Carpenters and Joiners	10	Patternmakers	8
Cashiers	0	Photographer	1
Castors	0	Polishers	2
Chemists	1	Post Office Employees—	
Cherks and Book-keepers—		Males	20
Males	152	Printers	11
Females	61	Railwaymen	6
Doctors	1	Scholars—Boys	100
Drapers	2	„ Girls	66
Draughtsmen	14	School Teachers—Males	35
Dressmakers	24	„ „ Females	73
Electricians	5	„ Masters	18
Engineers and Fitters	40	„ Mistresses	7
Glassworkers	9	Servants—Domestic	23
Grocers	5	Shopkeepers	15
Hairdressers	6	Solicitors	3
Housekeepers	10	Students	27
Inspectors	10	Tailors	6
Ironworkers	16	Typists	16
Labourers	3	Warehousemen	4
Machinists	4	Wives and Daughters	131
Managers	13		
Mechanics	6		
Merchants	1		
		Total	1434

Ages of New Borrowers.

Under 14	170	35 to 40	75	60 and over	24
14 to 20	349	40 to 45	49	Not stated : Males	70
20 to 25	242	45 to 50	29	„ Females	138
25 to 30	154	50 to 55	30		
30 to 35	96	55 to 60	8	Total	1434

REFERENCE LIBRARY.

TABLE IV.

CLASSIFIED RETURNS OF VOLUMES CONSULTED IN THE REFERENCE
LIBRARY.

During the twelve months ending 30th September, 1912.

DATE.	Days open.	Theology and Philosophy.	History, Biogra- phy and Travels.	Law, Politics and Commerce.	Science, Art and Natural History.	Encyclopaedias, Dictionaries and Miscel. Literature	Poetry and Drama.	Number of Con- sultations.	Number of Readers.
October 1911 ...	22	17	129	18	169	26	19	378	231
November „ ...	21	34	181	12	153	77	22	479	309
December „ ...	20	21	116	6	141	33	17	334	216
January 1912 ...	23	46	174	37	106	47	15	425	256
February „ ...	15	39	77	12	112	80	10	330	155
March „ ...	22	18	158	12	133	45	40	406	252
April „ ...	20	14	91	23	99	69	18	314	170
May „ ...	21	3	76	19	81	18	10	207	119
June „ ...	15	12	80	10	84	41	24	251	134
July „ ...	13	22	45	3	56	37	2	165	101
August „ ...	21	8	73	10	88	60	4	243	153
September „ ...	21	9	135	19	130	98	17	408	166
Totals ...	234	243	1335	181	1352	631	198	3940	2262

Occupations of Readers in the Reference Library.

Accountants	2	Merchants	1
Actors	3	Miners	2
Advertisers	2	Miscellaneous	115
Agents, Collectors, and		Moulders	28
Travellers	64	Musicians	9
Architects and Surveyors	7	No occupation—Males ...	41
Artists	98	„ „ Females ...	26
Artists' Models	1	Not stated	137
Assistants	6	Nurses	7
Authors	3	Office Boys	3
Bakers and Confectioners	12	Painters	19
Brassfounders	1	Patentees	3
Builders	1	Patternmakers	28
Butchers	2	Photographers	4
Carpenters and Joiners...	6	Plumbers	1
Cashiers	22	Post Office Employees ...	4
Chemists	80	Printers	22
Clerks and Book-keepers	190	Pupil Teachers	19
Clergymen and Ministers	53	Railwaymen	3
Doctors, Surgeons, etc. ...	3	Scholars	498
Draughtsmen	34	School Masters	69
Editors	1	„ Mistresses	4
Electricians	5	„ Teachers	247
Engineers and Fitters ...	83	Science Teachers	2
Glassworkers	2	Secretaries	21
Inspectors	12	Shopkeepers	2
Insurance	1	Solicitors	8
Ironworkers	6	Students	144
Jewellers	1	Tailors	2
Journalists	54	Turners	4
Labourers	1	Typists	3
Machinists	1	Whitesmiths	2
Managers	10		
Masons	1		
Mechanics	16		
		Total	2262

NOTE.—3,940 volumes have been consulted by 2,262 readers, who have made a formal application in writing, but in addition to this, hundreds of References are made to Directories, Gazetteers, Newspapers, etc., of which no record is kept.

Newspapers Filed in the Reference Library.

West Bromwich Free Press. West Bromwich Chronicle.
 West Bromwich Weekly News. Midland Advertiser.

Copies of the London "Times" and "Birmingham Daily Post" are kept for three months only.

TABLE V.

Showing the Number and Classification of Volumes issued from the Lending Department since 1884.
(Statistics for first ten years may be seen in earlier reports.)

TABLE.	Days Open.	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	K	TOTALS.		Average Vols.	Average Borrowers.
												Volumes.	Borrowers.		
11th Report, 1884-5	229	1047	3862	141	2081	732	5010	28802	2037	5929	*227	49868	48238	218	210
12th " 1885-6	257	1108	5240	245	2455	876	6023	39566	2412	9405	1004	68334	65738	262	256
13th " 1886-7	253	983	5067	160	2127	872	5636	39231	2268	8833	732	63909	63347	260	250
14th " 1887-8	255	912	4271	115	1998	708	5555	38497	2002	7687	674	62419	60117	244	235
15th " 1888-9	241	564	3499	166	2032	628	4754	34796	1358	9867	571	58235	56118	241	232
16th " 1889-90	224	519	2867	132	1836	586	3994	31497	1296	9020	551	52298	49637	232	221
17th " 1890-1	230	529	3174	124	1650	428	3703	33085	1202	8334	523	52762	50116	229	217
18th " 1891-2	235	457	2645	107	1531	514	3008	33203	1199	7943	613	51220	50270	217	213
19th " 1892-3	231	449	2317	167	1626	547	2763	32198	1198	7751	748	49764	47520	215	205
20th " 1893-4	228	441	2518	139	1735	645	2879	37773	1203	8403	846	56581	54273	248	238
21st " 1894-5	238	510	2786	143	1618	626	2905	40503	995	8722	663	60125	58229	252	244
22nd " 1895-6	257	447	2322	108	1624	538	3117	40303	995	8722	492	58868	57634	229	223
23rd " 1896-7	241	400	2093	106	1469	385	3222	36949	1018	7461	627	53730	52443	223	216
24th " 1897-8	238	335	2024	67	1237	6284	62412	35218	6903	6000	666	49146	47682	207	200
25th " 1898-9	242	253	1342	45	957	162	1617	35392	667	4885	579	45899	45051	189	186
26th " 1899-1900	239	150	1336	78	783	146	772	33163	505	4652	449	42034	41379	176	173
27th " 1900-1	238	554	2758	267	2074	428	235	35080	1116	6194	970	49686	49094	209	206
28th " 1901-2	240	648	3278	519	2622	430	310	33286	1869	7038	1608	51608	51239	215	213
29th " 1902-3	241	772	3461	401	3510	517	295	38189	1820	7202	2012	58179	57879	241	240
30th " 1903-4	240	829	3687	490	4138	800	372	37134	1537	6919	2086	57992	57841	242	241
31st " 1904-5	240	768	3870	442	4244	712	311	42654	1472	9113	2145	65731	65044	274	273
32nd " 1905-6	239	733	3041	606	4011	725	254	44961	1653	9443	1917	67942	67847	284	284
33rd " 1906-7	220	775	3340	598	3985	732	224	42902	1552	10759	1816	66683	66593	303	303
34th " 1907-8	242	946	3616	648	4152	892	325	47532	1777	10075	1959	71922	71772	298	297
35th " 1908-9	237	980	3629	628	4272	865	301	46911	1679	11497	1931	72493	72470	307	306
36th " 1909-10	237	976	3379	730	4025	948	253	45505	1721	10500	1716	69753	69305	294	292
37th " 1910-11	238	1032	3441	774	4254	971	214	44746	1741	11756	1826	70755	70340	297	296
38th " 1911-12	239	914	3672	790	4589	913	101	49665	1757	12584	1822	76807	76256	321	315
TOTALS	9149	34803	144137	10750	95576	28700	119246	1523012	69377	292708	31773	2350082	2210007	257	242

* Borrowers can retain Musical Works two weeks.

† Since January, 1894, the time allowed for reading Theological and Philosophical Works has been extended from one to two weeks.
a Since January, 1894, the time allowed for reading Scientific Works has been extended from one to two weeks.
b Since November 1897, the time allowed for reading books in all classes, *excepting G and J*, has been extended to two weeks.

TABLE VI.

SHOWING THE NUMBER AND CLASSIFICATION OF VOLUMES CONSULTED
IN THE REFERENCE DEPARTMENT SINCE OPENING.

TABLE.	Days open.	A	B	C	D	E	F	No. of Consul- tations.	No. of Readers
1st Report, 1874	56	68	113	3	108	88	...	380	...
2nd " 1875-6	258	84	112	14	179	223	...	612	...
3rd " 1876-7	254	59	240	1	291	364	...	955	419
4th " 1877-8	256	69	395	20	276	379	...	1139	542
5th " 1878-9	256	121	326	6	340	718	...	1511	566
6th " 1879-80	252	215	308	3	332	881	...	1739	557
7th " 1880-1	210	239	224	1	222	419	...	1105	392
8th " 1881-2	257	315	243	9	230	389	...	1186	196
9th " 1882-3	253	209	190	3	147	275	...	824	161
10th { Mar 27 to Sep 30 '83	132	82	104	3	108	172	...	469	...
Rept. { Oct 1 '83--Sep 30 '84	256	265	171	7	163	307	...	913	...
11th " 1884-5	229	279	116	5	219	333	...	952	191
12th " 1885-6	257	384	487	20	218	988	...	2097	242
13th " 1886-7	253	299	341	21	311	781	...	1753	246
14th " 1887-8	255	150	536	11	329	1617	...	2643	279
15th " 1888-9	241	170	532	19	696	1142	...	2559	244
16th " 1889-90	224	187	407	23	737	980	...	2334	162
17th " 1890-1	230	42	423	21	853	619	...	1958	359
18th " 1891-2	218	111	226	12	842	621	...	1812	128
19th " 1892-3	231	91	163	4	443	586	...	1287	127
20th " 1893-4	228	52	152	6	284	466	...	960	130
21st " 1894-5	238	21	107	2	185	299	...	614	109
22nd " 1895-6	257	101	64	0	178	192	...	535	88
23rd " 1896-7	241	101	74	6	124	143	...	448	99
24th " 1897-8	238	35	46	2	146	171	...	400	105
25th " 1898-9	242	47	48	0	94	249	...	438	99
26th " 1899-1900	239	15	108	13	164	196	...	496	190
27th " 1900-1	238	87	625	33	306	488	...	1539	586
28th " 1901-2	240	118	446	44	464	500	...	1572	779
29th " 1902-3	241	243	929	71	716	615	...	2574	1532
30th " 1903-4	240	175	614	44	546	533	70	1982	1088
31st " 1904-5	240	141	593	63	615	578	190	2180	1050
32nd " 1905-6	239	167	874	69	595	475	114	2294	1175
33rd " 1906-7	220	207	930	177	775	392	227	2708	1146
34th " 1907-8	242	254	1141	209	1081	1044	219	3948	1771
35th " 1908-9	237	236	883	213	1036	1097	210	3675	1589
36th " 1909-10	237	208	1026	175	1541	709	217	3876	1719
37th " 1910-11	238	220	981	213	1741	805	140	4100	2239
38th " 1911-12	234	243	1335	181	1352	631	198	3940	2262
TOTALS	9107	6110	16633	1727	18987	21465	1585	66507	22567

READING ROOMS.

Open from 9 a.m. to 9-30 p.m. daily.

CENTRAL.

The average daily attendance of readers is estimated at 2,000.

433 volumes are accessible to the public for use in the Reading Room only.

BRANCH No. 1—KENRICK PARK.

A Reading and News Room was opened at 215, Spon Lane, on the 1st January, 1883.

This Reading Room was transferred to the New Buildings, Kenrick Park, on Monday, the 28th September, 1903.

300 volumes are accessible to the public for use in the Reading Room only.

BRANCH No. 2—HILL TOP.

A Reading and News Room was opened on Monday, January 15th, 1883, at the office originally occupied by Mr. F. W. Topham.

This Reading Room was transferred to the New Public Buildings, Hill Top, on Monday, the 20th June, 1898.

388 volumes are accessible to the public for use in the Reading Room only.

BRANCH No. 3—GREET'S GREEN.

The Reading and News Room, which was opened on Wednesday, the 17th January, 1883, at No. 1, Great Bridge, was removed to the entrance to the Recreation Ground, Greet's Green, and opened on Monday, 1st August, 1892.

223 volumes are accessible to the public for use in the Reading Room only.

BRANCH No. 4—CHURCHFIELD.

A Reading and News Room was opened at 56, Tenscore Street, on Monday, 4th March, 1907.

80 volumes are accessible to the public for use in the Reading Room only.

DONATIONS OF BOOKS, Etc.

Blades, Alderman J. H., J.P., Oakhurst, West Bromwich—
Alliance News (Weekly) to Greets Green Branch.

*Board of Trade, Commission for Labour, 44, Parliament Street,
London—*
Reports as published.

British Museum Authorities—
Catalogue of German and Flemish Woodcuts. Vol. II.
Guide to Bible Tercentenary Exhibition.
Subject Index of Modern Works, 1906-10.

*Butterton, Miss, Theosophical Society, 106, New Bond Street,
London, W.—*
Ancient Wisdom. Besant.
Esoteric Christianity „
Immediate Future „
Lectures on Theosophy „

Cambray, P. G., 25, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.—
Irish Affairs and the Home Rule Question.

*City of London Publishing Co., Ltd., 32-36, Fleet Lane, London,
E.C.—*
Commercial Directory.

Cooks, Messrs., Ludgate Circus, London—
Natal.

Cooper and Budd, Ltd., Messrs., 62, Fleet Street, London—
Black Humphrey.

Crisp, Mr., G.W.R. Stationmaster, West Bromwich—
Holiday Haunts, 1912.

Emigrants' Information Office, 31, Broadway, Westminster—
Handbooks respecting Emigration, chiefly to the British Colonies

*Health Resorts Association, 29, John Street, Bedford Row, Lon-
don, W.C.—*
Guides.

*High Commissioner for New Zealand, 13, Victoria Street, London,
S.W.—*
Miscellaneous Literature relating to New Zealand.

*Institute of Municipal and Counties Engineers, per Messrs. Spon,
Ltd., 57, Haymarket, London—*
Housing and Town Planning, Conference at West Bromwich,
1911.

*Iron and Steel Institute, per G. C. Lloyd, 28, Victoria Street,
London, S.W.—*

Iron and Steel Institute Journal, 1911. No. 2.

The Metallurgic Industry in Italy and Description of some of
the principal works.

*Knibbs, G. H., Commonwealth of Australia Office, 72, Victoria St.,
Westminster, S.W.—*

Official Year Book of Australia, 1912.

Library Reports (about 200).

Library Catalogues (various).

Macdonald and Co., Ltd., London Road, Edinburgh—
English Directory, 1912.

*National Union of Teachers (per the Secretary), 67, Russell Square,
London, W.C.—*

Report, etc., for 1912.

*Patent Office Comptroller, 25, Southampton Buildings, Chancery
Lane—*

Illustrated Official Journal.

Paton, Messrs. J. and J., 143, Cannon Street, London, E.C.—
List of Schools and Tutors.

Guide to Continental Schools.

Publishers and Proprietors for Reading Rooms—

Publications are denoted by an (a) on pages 9 and 10.

Sherwell, J. H., Lombard Street, West Bromwich—
Burgess List, 1912-13.

*Smithsonian Institution (per C. D. Walcott), Washington, U.S.A.
Smithsonian Institution Report, 1910.*

Spriggs Publishing Agency, 2, Paternoster Square, London, E.C.—
Under Russian and British Flags.

Town Clerk, Guildhall, London—
Letter Book. K.

*Town and Counties Directories, Ltd., Messrs., Dalziel Place,
Edinburgh—*
Trades Directory of Birmingham and District.

*Union Defence League, per Secretary, 25, Victoria Street, West-
minster, S.W.—*
Leap in the Dark. Dicey.

University, Birmingham, per the Secretary—
Calendar, 1911-12.

University, Durham, per the Registrar—
Calendar, 1911-12.

University, London, per the General Editor—
Calendar and Guide, 1912.

University of Wales (Cardiff), per the Registrar—
Calendar, 1911-12.

West Bromwich Corporation, per A. Wickham, Town Clerk—
Burgess Roll, Parliamentary Register, and Parochial Register.

West Bromwich Corporation, per G. W. Davis, Inspector of Weights
and Measures—

Report for the year ending 31st March, 1912.

West Bromwich Corporation, per H. Kirk, Borough Treasurer—
Abstract of Accounts for the year ending 31st March, 1912.

West Bromwich Corporation, per Dr. R. W. Stocks, Acting Medical
Officer of Health—

Report of the Health of the County Borough.





FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

April 1st, 1911, to

March 31st, 1912.



INCOME AND EXPENDITURE from

ACCOUNTS.	PAYMENTS.	LIABILITIES		EXPENDITURE from 1st April, 1911, to 31st March, 1912.
		INCURRED BUT NOT PAID		
		31st March, 1911.	31st March, 1912.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Central Library ...	801 7 9	71 9 9	82 11 1	812 9 1
Spon Lane Branch ...	48 14 8	3 7 8	3 6 8	48 13 8
Hill Top Branch ...	12 12 6	3 1 9	3 1 9	12 12 6
Greets Green Branch ...	49 4 11	3 10 7	3 11 0	49 5 4
Churchfields Branch ...	48 10 8	5 13 10	4 7 11	47 4 9
	960 10 6	87 3 7	96 18 5	970 5 4
			87 3 7	
			9 14 10	

[illegible]

RECEIPTS.			
£	s. d.	£	s. d.
BOROUGH RATE—		Particulars.	General.
Amount of Rate Aid			£ s. d.
for the year, being		Salaries and	210 0 0
equivalent to the		Wages of Staff	
product of a rate of		Books ...	...
one penny in the £	868 1 8	Bookbinding ...	...
CENTRAL LIBRARY—		Newspapers and	
Fines, etc. ...	72 6 0	Periodicals ...	...
Hire of Lecture Room	52 12 6	Printing, Sta-	
	124 18 6	tionery and	
		Advertising ...	...
BRANCH READING ROOMS—		Repairs to	
Spon Lane: Sale of		Buildings ...	...
Papers ...	1 6 11	Electric Light...	...
Hill Top, Sale of Papers	1 6 11	Rent, Fuel, Light	
Greets Green ,,	1 3 0	and Water ...	...
	£ s. d.	Insurances ...	...
Churchfields:		Subscriptions to	
Sale of Papers	15 4	various Societies	...
Rent	7 7 0	Miscellaneous	
	8 2 4	Expenses ...	...
	11 19 2		210 0 0
		Receipts in ex-	
		cess of Payments	...
	£1004 19 4		210 0 0

1st April, 1911, to 31st March, 1912.

PAYMENTS.

Central Library.	BRANCH READING ROOMS.				Total.
	Spon Lane.	Hill Top.	Greets Green.	Churchfields	
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
182 6 6	...	...	...	...	392 6 6
61 5 10	...	...	...	...	61 5 10
25 6 3	...	...	...	...	25 6 3
57 16 1	13 14 8	12 12 6	14 4 11	9 18 1	108 6 3
22 19 11	...	...	...	...	22 19 11
80 9 4	...	...	...	4 13 0	85 2 4
64 11 3	...	...	...	...	64 11 3
35 2 1	35 0 0	...	35 0 0	33 19 7	139 1 8
4 12 3	...	...	...	...	4 12 3
6 1 6	...	...	...	...	6 1 6
50 16 9	...	...	...	...	50 16 9
591 7 9	48 14 8	12 12 6	49 4 11	48 10 8	960 10 6
...	...	...	...	...	44 8 10
591 7 9	48 14 8	12 12 6	49 4 11	48 10 8	1004 19 4

CAPITAL

To RECEIPTS.

£ s. d.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY

ANDREW CARNEGIE, Esq., LL.D.—

Donation of full cost of building	New	Free	
Public Library ... ..	...	...	7714 16 3

REVENUE ACCOUNT—

Appropriation of accumulated surplus of Penny Rate to	
defray cost of furnishing and equipment of New Free	
Public Library	1200 0 0

 £8,914 16 3

SPECIAL BOOK

To RECEIPTS.

£ s. d.

Balance brought forward	45 12 5
-------------------------	-----	-----	-----	---------

 £45 12 5

ACCOUNT.

BY PAYMENTS.

£ s. d.

BUILDING ACCOUNT.

NEW FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1907.

Cost of Construction and Equipment	8914	16	3
------------------------------------	-----	-----	------	----	---

£8,914	16	3
--------	----	---

FUND ACCOUNT.

BY PAYMENTS.

£ s. d.

Cost of Books purchased during the year	13	12	9
---	-----	-----	----	----	---

BALANCE, 31st March, 1912—

In hands of Treasurer	31	19	8
-----------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	----	----	---

£45	12	5
-----	----	---

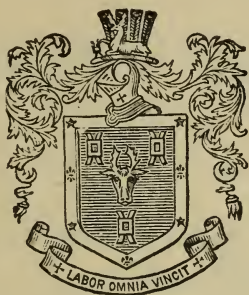
BALANCE SHEET—

LIABILITIES.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
CAPITAL ACCOUNT.									
TRUST ACCOUNT—									
Gift of Andrew Carnegie, Esq., LL.D., of full cost of construction of New Library ...				7714	16	3			
BALANCE, being Appropriation from Revenue Account to defray cost of furnishing and equipment of New Free Public Library ...				1200	0	0			
							8914	16	3
SPECIAL ACCOUNT.									
SPECIAL BOOK FUND ACCOUNT—									
Unexpended balance							31	19	8
REVENUE ACCOUNT.									
SUNDRY CREDITORS for balances due to them ...				96	18	5			
SURPLUS—									
Balance, 31st March, 1911 ...	225	13	8						
Add—Income in excess of Expenditure for year ended 31st March, 1912				34	14	0			
							260	7	8
							357	6	1
H. KIRK, A.S.A.A., BOROUGH TREASURER.									
GUILDFORD O. HODGES, LIBRARIAN AND SECRETARY.									
							£	9304	2 0

31st March, 1912.

ASSETS.			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
CAPITAL ACCOUNT.								
NEW FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDINGS—								
Complete cost of construction and equipment			8914	16	3			
						8914	16	3
SPECIAL ACCOUNT.								
SPECIAL BOOK FUND ACCOUNT—								
CASH in hands of Treasurer	...	...					31	19 8
REVENUE ACCOUNT.								
CASH in hands of Treasurer	...	...					357	6 1
Audited and found correct, GEO. T. COLEMAN, F.C.A., } CLEMENT KEYS, A.C.A., } Auditors.								
			£	9304	2	0		

County Borough of West Bromwich.



39th ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Free Library Committee.

PRESENTED TO THE TOWN COUNCIL,

November, 1913.

FORM OF BEQUEST.

I bequeath out of such part of my personal estate as may by Law be bequeathed for such purposes, to the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of West Bromwich, in the County of Staffordshire, the sum of

free from Legacy Duty, for the benefit of the Public Libraries of the said Borough, to be expended in such way as the Committee for the time being may deem expedient; and I direct that the receipt of the Treasurer for the time being of the said Borough shall be an effectual discharge for the same Legacy.

AREA, 5,860 ACRES.
 POPULATION IN 1911, 68,345.
 HOUSES, 15,179.
 RATEABLE VALUE, £234,906 10s. 0d.

Chronological History.

- 1870 Public Libraries Act unanimously adopted, 30th November.
- 1873 Mr. P. D. Bennett appointed first Chairman, 7th January.
- 1874 D. Dickinson appointed Librarian, 13th February.
- 1874 Central Newsroom opened, 31st August.
- 1875 Lending Library opened 15th February.
- 1875 Reference Library opened, 15th March.
- 1876 Henry Williams, Esq., appointed Chairman, 21st June.
- 1882 Mr. C. H. Bayley, Hon. Secretary, died in November.
- 1882 Librarian appointed Secretary.
- 1883 Branch Reading Room opened, Spon Lane, 1st January.
- 1883 " " " Hill Top, 15th January.
- 1883 " " " Greets Green, 17th January.
- 1884 Subscription Library formed and opened, 1st January.
- 1891 Mr. J. Manley appointed Chairman, 18th November.
- 1892 Branch Reading Room at Great Bridge transferred to Farley Park, Greets Green, 1st August.
- 1895 Permission granted to the Science and Art Masters to borrow books from the Reference Library for the use of Students at the Institute, 18th December; cancelled, July, 1902.
- 1898 Branch Reading Room at Hill Top transferred to the Park at Hill Top in July.
- 1900 Death of Mr. D. Dickinson, 8th March. (First Librarian.)
- 1900 Mr. Guildford O. Hodges appointed Librarian, 6th April.
- 1902 Councillor H. L. Browne appointed Chairman, 12th February.
- 1902 Fifth Edition of Lending Library Catalogue Published, April.
- 1903 Spon Lane Reading Room transferred to Kenrick Park in September.
- 1905 Dr. Andrew Carnegie offers £7,500 for a new Library, 24th June.
- 1905 Dr. Andrew Carnegie's offer accepted by Town Council, 5th July.
- 1906 Foundation Stone of New Free Library laid, April 27th, by Councillor H. Langley Browne, M.D.
- 1907 Branch Reading Room opened, Churchfield, 4th March.
- 1907 New Central Library opened, 10th June, by His Worship the Mayor, Councillor J. E. Wilson, J.P.
- 1907 Reference Library "Sheaf" Catalogue Published. June.
- 1908 Memorial Tablet to D. C. Murray, erected December.
- 1909 Sixth Edition of Lending Library Catalogue, Published; also Juvenile Catalogue.
- 1909 First Mural Decoration fixed September, the gift of John Spencer, Esq., J.P.
- 1910 First Course of University Extension Lectures given.
- 1910 Students' Tickets introduced. September.
- 1911 Two further Mural Panels, painted by Mr. Wilkinson.
- 1912 Fourth Mural Panel, presented by Members of Subscription Library.
- 1913 Fifth and Sixth Mural Panels, representing "Manuscripts" and "Caxton's Printing Press."

1912-13.

Committee.

COUNCILLOR H. L. BROWNE, M.D., LL.D. (CHAIRMAN).

REV. J. W. JONES, M.A. (DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN).

ALDERMAN J. H. BLADES, J.P.

COUNCILLOR J. A. KENRICK (MAYOR). "

COUNCILLOR J. ANDERSON.

COUNCILLOR J. WHEATLEY.

MR. A. CADDICK

MR. J. G. GIFFORD

REV. F. A. HOMER

DR. H. MANLEY, M.A., M.D.

(Died May 4th, 1913).

MR. J. A. PEARCE

DR. H. B. W. PLUMMER, M.D.

MR. H. TOMBLIN

MR. W. S. WATTS

—:o:—

Book-Buying and Emergency Committee.

COUNCILLOR H. L. BROWNE, M.D., LL.D.

COUNCILLOR J. A. KENRICK (MAYOR).

COUNCILLOR J. ANDERSON.

MR. A. CADDICK.

REV. J. W. JONES, M.A.

DR. H. B. W. PLUMMER, M.D.

—:o:—

Librarian and Secretary.

GUILDFORD O. HODGES, F.L.A.

—:o:—

Assistants.

MISS M. A. REEVES.

MISS R. HARTLAND.

MISS N. BAYLISS.

MISS M. HARRIS.

—:o:—

CARETAKER:—WILLIAM DAVIS.

—:o:—

Branches.

CARETAKER, No. 1—KENRICK PARK: J. C. COOPER.

„ No. 2—HILL TOP: J. WHITEHOUSE.

„ No. 3—GREET'S GREEN: H. JONES.

„ No. 4—CHURCHFIELD: MRS. WOODHALL.

THIRTY-NINTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

OF THE

West Bromwich Public Library.

*TO HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR AND CORPORATION OF
THE BOROUGH OF WEST BROMWICH.*

SIR AND GENTLEMEN,

Your Committee have pleasure in presenting their Thirty-ninth Annual Report, showing the work accomplished in connection with the Public Library.

The past year has been one of great activity. The public continue to exhibit a keen interest in the welfare and progress of the institution, and enjoy the advantages now afforded by it.

The chief object which the Committee have in view is to make the Library a central bureau of information for the town, and as far as can be done, the Committee intend to continue to meet the public demand.

A perusal of the following Report will show that this year's work has been eminently satisfactory.

LENDING DEPARTMENT.

STOCK.—Much care and attention has been given to the selection of books, also suggestions from readers, which are welcomed and always carefully considered.

During the year there has been added to this department, by purchase, 140 volumes; by presentation, 10; by transfer from Subscription Library, 144; total, 294.

STOCK-TAKING.—The Libraries were closed for Stock-taking on July 1st, and re-opened on July 14th. During the year out of an issue of 73,011 volumes, it is gratifying to report no loss.

ISSUES.—For home reading and study, 72,605 borrowers have borrowed 73,011 volumes, the daily average for the year being 303. To regard, however, the issue of a book which may be returned unread on the following day as the criterion by which the worth of a Library may be ascertained may lead to nothing but a fallacious conclusion. For the statistical value of an issue of a small book of fiction which has been easily read in one evening is equal to that of an historical or scientific work which may have fully occupied the borrower's reading time for fourteen days. It is therefore not surprising to find in Library circles a growing doubt as to the wisdom of regarding tabular statements as indicative of the real value of the work accomplished by a "live" Library.

BORROWERS' CARDS.—1,229 new cards were issued this year, and 127 Students' or Non-Fiction Cards.

As explained in a previous Report, whilst any book may be issued on the Ordinary ticket, only works other than Fiction or Juvenile may be issued on the Non-Fiction ticket.

The actual number of Borrowers' Cards in use on September 30th, 1913, was 2,790, against 2,950 last year.

CONDITION OF BOOKS.—148 worn-out and obsolete books have been withdrawn, 237 volumes have been replaced by new copies, 281 have been re-bound, and 1,618 have been repaired on the premises by the Library staff. In order to maintain the satisfactory condition of the books, the work of examining the stock is constantly in progress.

This department now consists of 12,249 volumes.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

In this department is the important side of the educational work of the Library. The aim here is not a big turnover every year, but a big profit to those who use it, for all the books stored and used here are very valuable and full of useful information.

CONSULTATIONS.—3,718 volumes were consulted by 1,924 readers, against 3,940 volumes by 2,262 readers the previous year.

No record is kept of the hundreds of references made to directories, year books, calendars, magazines, etc., which are upon the public shelves in the Central Reading Room.

STOCK.—During the year 93 volumes were added to this department; by purchase, 77; by gift, 16.

This department now consists of 4,264 volumes.

READING ROOMS.

The Central and Branch Reading Rooms continue to be well used and appreciated. They attract a very great number of readers and account for an immense amount of reading.

The average daily attendance at the Central is over 2,000.

MISCELLANEA.

LECTURES.—Mr. Robert K. Dent delivered 10 Lectures, five in the autumn of 1912 and five in the spring of 1913. They were popular literary lectures, illustrated with lantern slides, were well attended and very much appreciated by our own borrowers and others.

MURAL PAINTINGS.—Two further decorations have been fixed up in the Central Hall (re-productions of which appear in this Report.) “The Making of Manuscripts” was painted by Miss Lilian M. B. Hall, a pupil at the West Bromwich Art School, and “The Introduction of the Printing Press into England” was painted by the Second Master of the West Bromwich Art School, Mr. Stanley C. Rowles. Both are splendid conceptions, well rendered, and were given by the Artists to the Library. There are now six Mural Decorations altogether in the Central Hall, which looks very beautiful. Four others are being done by Miss Hall, to represent Music, Art, Poetry, and Drama, and when finished this part of the building will look unique.

STAFF.—It is a pleasure to the Committee to record their appreciation of the able and enthusiastic manner in which the work of the Libraries has been carried on during the year by the Librarian and his staff. Mr. J. Woodhall, for many years Senior

Assistant, was in May appointed Librarian of the Sevenoaks Public Library, which caused some re-arrangement of the staff.

COMMITTEE.—By the death of Dr. Herbert Manley a useful member was lost to the Committee; he had been a member for eleven years.

ATTENDANCES.

There have been eleven meetings of the Committee and one Sub-Committee meeting, the attendance of the members being as follows:—

	Summoned.		Attended.	
The Mayor (Councillor J. A. Kenrick) ...	14	...	2	
Alderman J. H. Blades ...	12	...	9	
Councillor H. Langley Browne (Chairman)...	14	...	11	
Councillor J. Anderson...	14	...	9	
Councillor J. Wheatley ...	12	...	10	
Mr. Alfred Caddick ...	14	...	1	
Mr. J. G. Gifford ...	12	...	2	
Rev. F. A. Homer ...	12	...	5	
Rev. J. W. Jones (Deputy-Chairman) ...	14	...	11	
Dr. Herbert Manley (died, May 4th, 1913)	7	...	1	
Mr. J. A. Pearce (appointed April, 1912)...	12	...	11	
Dr. H. B. W. Plummer...	14	...	9	
Mr. H. Tomblin ...	12	...	8	
Mr. W. S. Watts ...	12	...	7	

Signed on behalf of the Free Library Committee,

H. LANGLEY BROWNE, Chairman.

GUILDFORD O. HODGES, Librarian.



LIST OF NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES AND PERIODICALS SUPPLIED TO THE READING ROOMS.

(Those marked *a* are presented.)

NAME.	CENTRAL	KENRICK PARK	HILL TOP	GREET'S GREEN	CHURCHFIELD	NAME.	CENTRAL	KENRICK PARK	HILL TOP	GREET'S GREEN	CHURCHFIELD
DAILY.						<i>a</i> Evesham Journal ...	1				
Birmingham—Evening Despatch	1	1	1	1	1	Exchange and Mart ...	1				
„ Gazette	2	1	1	1	1	Fishing Gazette ...	1				
„ Mail ...	3	2	1	1	2	Garden ...			1		
„ Post ...	3	1	1	1	1	Gardening ...	1				
Daily Citizen ...	1					Gas World ...	1				
Daily Herald ...	1					Gentlewoman ...	1				
Daily Sketch ...	1					Good Words ...					
Liverpool Mercury ...	1					Graphic ...	1	1	1	1	
London—Chronicle ...	1			1		Illustrated London News	1	1	1	1	1
„ Daily Mail ...	1	1	1	1	1	<i>a</i> India ...	1				
„ Daily News ...	1	1	1	1	1	<i>a</i> Investors' Guardian ...	1				
„ Standard ...	1	1	1	1	1	<i>a</i> Iron and Coal Trades Review	1				
„ Telegraph ...	1					<i>a</i> Kidderminster Shuttle	1				
„ Times ...	1					<i>a</i> Labour Leader ...	1				
Yorkshire Post ...	1					Ladies' Field ...	1				
Wolverhampton—Evening Ex- press and Star ...	1		1	1	1	Lady ...	1				
WEEKLY.						Lady's Pictorial ...	1				
<i>a</i> Alliance News ...				1		<i>a</i> Local Government Chronicle	1				
American Machinist ...	1					<i>a</i> Local Government Journal	1				
Architect ...	1					<i>a</i> Machinery Market ...	1				
Athenæum ..	1					<i>a</i> Midland Advertiser ...	3	1	1	1	1
Birmingham Weekly Mercury	1					<i>a</i> Midland Counties Herald	1				
<i>a</i> Board of Trade Journal ...	1					Mining Journal ...	1				
Bookseller ...	1					<i>a</i> Motor Traction ...	1				
<i>a</i> Bournemouth Visitors' Directory	1					Nature ...	1				
Boys Own Paper ...	1	1				<i>a</i> Patents (Illustrated Official Jnl.)	1				
<i>a</i> British Australasian ...	1					<i>a</i> Phonetic Journal ...	1	1	1	1	
Builder ...	1					Photographic News ...	1				
Building News ...	1					Photography and Focus	1				
„ World ...				1		<i>a</i> Practical Engineer ...	1				
<i>a</i> Canada ...	1					<i>a</i> Present Truth ...	1				
<i>a</i> Canadian ...	1					Punch ...	1	1	1	1	
<i>a</i> Canadian Gazette ...	1					Queen ...	1				
<i>a</i> Canadian Mail ...	1					<i>a</i> School Government Chronicle	1				
<i>a</i> Civil Service Aspirant	1					Scotsman ...	1				
Clarion ...	1					Smallholder ...					1
<i>a</i> Clark's Educator ...	1					<i>a</i> Smethwick Telephone...	1				
<i>a</i> Clerk ...	1					Spectator ...	1				
<i>a</i> Colliery Guardian ...	1					Sphere ...	1				
<i>a</i> Common Cause ...	1					Sporting and Dramatic News	1				
<i>a</i> Contract Journal ...	1					Staffordshire Advertiser	1				
<i>a</i> Contractors' Record ...	1					<i>a</i> Suffragette ...	1				
<i>a</i> Drapers' Record ...	1			1		Truth ...	1				
Dublin Freeman ...	1					<i>a</i> Walsall Advertiser ...	1				
<i>a</i> Dudley Herald ...	1					<i>a</i> Warwickshire Advertiser	1				
Electrical Review ...	1					<i>a</i> Wednesbury Herald ...	1				
Engineer ...	1	1		1		Wellington Journal ...	1				
Engineering ..	1					<i>a</i> West Bromwich Chronicle	3	1	1	1	1
<i>a</i> English Churchman ...	1					<i>a</i> „ „ Free Press	4	1	1	1	1
„ Mechanic ...	1	1	1	1	1	<i>a</i> „ „ Weekly News...	3	1	1	1	1
Era ...	1					<i>a</i> Wolverhampton Chronicle	1		1	1	
						<i>a</i> Worcester Herald ...	1				
						Work ...	1				1

NAME.	CENTRAL	KENRICK PARK	HILL TOP	GREETS GREEN	CHURCHFIELD	NAME.	CENTRAL	KENRICK PARK	HILL TOP	GREETS GREEN	CHURCHFIELD
MONTHLY.						<i>a</i> Patent Office Journal ...	...	1			
<i>a</i> Abolitionist	1	1	1	1	<i>a</i> Patents ...	...	1			
<i>a</i> Acetylene Journal	1				<i>a</i> Positivist Review ...	...	1			
<i>a</i> Agricultural Economist	1				Power User ...	...	1			
<i>a</i> „ Record	1				<i>a</i> Protestant Observer ...	...	1			
<i>a</i> Animals Friend	1				Quiver ...	...	1			1
<i>a</i> Arbitrator	1	1	1	1	<i>a</i> Railway Clerk ...	...	1			
Band of Hope	1	1	1	1	<i>a</i> Railway Time Tables —					
<i>a</i> B'ham Chamber of Commerce						Bradshaw's Guide ...	...	1			
Journal	1				<i>a</i> Caledonian ...	...	1			
<i>a</i> Bluejacket and Soldier	1				<i>a</i> Cambrian ...	...	1			
Boys Own Paper	1		1		<i>a</i> Glasgow and South-Western ...	...	1			
<i>a</i> Britain's Opium Harvest	1				<i>a</i> Great Eastern ...	...	1			
<i>a</i> British Columbia Magazine	1				<i>a</i> Great Northern ...	...	1			
British Workman	1	1	1	1	<i>a</i> Great Western ...	...	1			
Captain	1			1	<i>a</i> Lancashire and Yorkshire ...	...	1			
Cassell's Magazine of Fiction	1	1	1	1	<i>a</i> London and North-Western ...	...	1			
Century Magazine	1		1		<i>a</i> Midland ...	...	1			
Chambers' Journal	1	1	1	1	<i>a</i> North British ...	...	1			
<i>a</i> Church Gazette	1				<i>a</i> North Eastern ...	...	1			
<i>a</i> Clerk of Works Journal	1				White and Pike ...	...	1		1	
<i>a</i> Conservative and Unionist	1				<i>a</i> Representation ...	...	1			
Contemporary Review	1				Review of Reviews ...	...	1			
<i>a</i> Deceased Seamen	2				Scribner ...	...	1			
<i>a</i> Educational Review	1				St. Nicholas ...	...	1			
<i>a</i> Educational Times	1				Strand Magazine ...	...	1	1	1	1
English Illustrated	1	1		1	Sunday at Home ...	...	1	1		
English Woman	1				<i>a</i> Theosophist ...	...	1			
<i>a</i> Ferro Concrete	1				<i>a</i> Travellers Gazette ...	...	1			
<i>a</i> Foresters' Review	1				<i>a</i> Vaccination Inquirer ...	...	1			
Fortnightly Review	1				<i>a</i> Vegetarian Messenger ...	...	1			
<i>a</i> Good Health	1			1	<i>a</i> Vulcan ...	...	1			
Girls' Own Paper	1				<i>a</i> White Ribbon ...	...	1			
<i>a</i> G. W. R. Magazine	1				Windsor Magazine ...	...	1	1		1
Harper's Magazine	1				Woman at Home ...	...				1
<i>a</i> Herald of the Cross	1				Young Man ...	...				1
<i>a</i> Herald of the Golden Age	1				<i>a</i> Zoophilist ...	...	1	1	1	1
<i>a</i> Herald of Health	1									
<i>a</i> Home	1									
<i>a</i> I.C.S. Student	1	1	1	1	QUARTERLY.					
<i>a</i> Insurance Agents' Review	1				<i>a</i> Bird Notes and News ...	...	1			
<i>a</i> Labour Gazette	1		1		Hibbert Journal ...	...	1			
Lady's World	1				<i>a</i> Men's Magazine ...	...	1			
<i>a</i> Land Nationaliser	1				<i>a</i> Needlework ...	...	1			
<i>a</i> Liberator	1									
Macfadden's Magazine	1				AS PUBLISHED.					
<i>a</i> Mothers' Union Journal	1				<i>a</i> Anti-Slavery Report ...	...	1			
<i>a</i> Musical Herald	1				<i>a</i> Civil Service Candidate ...	...	1			
National Review	1				<i>a</i> Emigration Circulars ...	...	20	1	1	1
<i>a</i> New Church Magazine	1				<i>a</i> Individualist ...	...	1			
Nineteenth Century	1				National Home Reading Union					
<i>a</i> Nursing Notes	1				Journals ...	...	All			
<i>a</i> Our Animal Brothers	1				<i>a</i> Queensland Mining Journal ...	...	1			
<i>a</i> Our Flag	1				<i>a</i> University Correspondent ...	...	1			

TABLE I.

SHOWING STOCK IN LIBRARIES AND BRANCH READING ROOMS.

Lending Library.					
In Stock previously	...	...	...	...	12103
Withdrawn	...	...	...	97	
Worn out and out of print...	...	...	...	51	
Volumes lost by replacement of Works in several volumes, by editions in one volume				0	
Total loss ascertained out of issue of 73,011 vols.				0	
					<hr/> 148
					<hr/> 11955
Added during the year:—					
By Gift	...	...	...	10	
„ Purchase	...	...	...	140	
„ Transfer from Subscription Library	...	...	...	144	
					<hr/> 294
Total Stock in Lending Library					<hr/> 12249
Reference Library.					
In Stock previously	...	...	...	4171	
Withdrawn	...	...	...	0	
					<hr/> 0
					<hr/> 4171
Added during the year:—					
By Gift	...	...	...	16	
„ Purchase	...	...	...	77	
„ Transfer from Lending Library	...	...	...	0	
					<hr/> 93
Total Stock in Reference Library					<hr/> 4264
Branch Reading Rooms.					
Kenrick Park	...	...	...	300	
Hill Top	...	...	...	388	
Greets Green	...	...	...	223	
Churchfield	...	...	...	82	
					<hr/> 993
Total Stock.					
Lending Library	...	...	...	12249	
Reference Library	...	...	...	4264	
Branch Reading Rooms	...	...	...	993	
Central Reading Room	...	...	...	444	
					<hr/> 444
					<hr/> 17950
					<hr/> <hr/>

TABLE II.

SHOWING THE NUMBER OF VOLUMES IN EACH CLASS IN REFERENCE
AND LENDING DEPARTMENTS.

Lending Library.

A.	Theology and Philosophy	...	...	622
B.	History, Biography, and Travels	...	...	2883
C.	Law, Politics, and Commerce...	...	...	278
D.	Science, Art, and Natural History	...	...	1151
E.	Poetry and Drama	...	...	468
F.	Magazines and Reviews	...	...	—
G.	Fiction	...	...	5033
H.	Miscellaneous Literature	...	...	712
J.	Juvenile Literature	...	...	805
K.	Music	...	...	297
				12249

Reference Library.

A.	Theology and Philosophy	...	...	477
B.	History, Biography and Travels	...	...	1072
C.	Law, Politics, and Commerce...	...	...	84
D.	Science, Art, and Natural History	...	...	755
E.	Miscellaneous Literature, Encyclo- pædias, etc.	...	...	1731
F.	Poetry and Drama	...	...	145
				4264

16513

TABLE III.

Classified Return of the Volumes borrowed from the Lending Library during the Twelve Months ending Sept. 30th, 1913.

DATE.	Days open.	Theology & Philosophy.	History, Biography, and Travels.	Law, Politics and Commerce.	Science and Art.	Poetry and Drama.	Magazines and Reviews.	*Fiction.	Miscellaneous Literature.	*Juvenile Literature.	Totals.		Daily Average Volumes.	Daily Average Borrowers.
											Vols.	Bor- rowers.		
October 1912 ...	22	66	310	76	392	76	...	4347	148	992	6566	6523	298	297
November , , ...	22	70	366	81	360	94	...	4790	179	1032	7166	7112	326	323
December , , ...	21	49	262	54	364	85	...	3911	168	900	5958	5926	284	282
January 1913 ...	22	86	369	84	406	102	...	4503	185	1052	6952	6906	316	314
February , , ...	20	78	352	76	395	134	...	4397	206	955	6778	6732	339	337
March , , ...	20	60	327	54	397	121	...	4959	159	1011	7254	7204	363	360
April , , ...	22	64	311	53	391	91	...	4636	133	999	6842	6805	311	309
May , , ...	21	79	294	63	369	123	...	4318	141	865	6407	6370	305	303
June , , ...	15	67	191	53	192	92	...	2718	92	523	4034	4018	269	268
July , , ...	13	54	186	58	191	82	...	1752	97	441	2970	2962	229	228
August , , ...	21	76	364	105	383	129	...	3467	213	722	5619	5603	268	267
September , , ...	22	62	362	70	397	113	..	4111	209	935	6465	6444	294	293
Totals ...	241	811	3694	827	4237	1242	...	47909	1930	10427	73011	72605	303	301

*Time allowed for reading works of Fiction and Juvenile Literature, 7 days ; all other classes, 14 days.

Occupations of Borrowers admitted to Lending Department during the year.

Actresses	2	Milliners	9
Agents, Collectors, and Travellers	9	Miners	3
Analysts	3	Ministers	9
Apprentices	5	Miscellaneous	70
Architects and Surveyors	2	Moulders	8
Artists	4	Musicians	3
Assistants	60	No occupations	31
Bakers and Confectioners	7	Not stated	135
Bookbinders	8	Nurses	11
Bootmakers	4	Office Boys	11
Builders	8	Packers	7
Butchers	6	Painters	12
Caretakers	8	Patternmakers	9
Carpenters and Joiners ...	9	Photographers	7
Cashiers	5	Polishers	4
Castors	2	Post Office Employees—	
Chemists	11	Males	9
Clerks and Book-keepers—		Females	2
Males	152	Printers	13
Females	82	Railwaymen	4
Doctors	5	Scholars—Boys	51
Drapers	5	„ Girls	38
Draughtsmen	19	School Teachers—Males	32
Dressmakers	16	„ „ Females	48
Electricians	6	„ Masters	17
Engineers and Fitters ...	59	„ Mistresses	8
Glassworkers	6	Servants—Domestic	16
Grocers	16	Shopkeepers	12
Hairdressers	4	Smiths	3
Housekeepers	12	Solicitors	3
Inspectors	8	Students	33
Ironworkers	7	Tailors	4
Labourers	6	Turners	6
Machinists	4	Typists	21
Managers	7	Warehousemen	5
Manufacturers	2	Wives and Daughters ...	124
Mechanics	2		
Merchants	7		
		Total	1356

Ages of New Borrowers.

Under 14	142	35 to 40	84	60 and over	25
14 to 19	361	40 to 45	37	Not stated : Males	71
20 to 25	199	45 to 50	31	„ Females	121
25 to 30	149	50 to 55	18		
30 to 35	113	55 to 60	5	Total	1356

REFERENCE LIBRARY.

TABLE IV.

CLASSIFIED RETURNS OF VOLUMES CONSULTED IN THE REFERENCE
LIBRARY.

During the twelve months ended 30th September, 1913.

DATE.	Days open.	Theology and Philosophy.	History, Biogra- phy and Travels.	Law, Politics and Commerce.	Science, Art and Natural History.	Encyclopædias, Dictionaries and Miscel. Literature	Poetry and Drama.	Number of Con- sultations.	Number of Readers.
October 1912 ...	22	2	55	10	108	34	18	227	127
November „ ...	22	16	102	14	130	26	44	332	151
December „ ...	21	15	104	16	76	184	20	415	148
January 1913 ...	22	43	184	36	156	72	45	536	252
February „ ...	20	14	104	20	140	53	28	359	162
March „ ...	20	5	101	15	121	58	11	311	183
April „ ...	22	16	100	5	57	29	11	218	121
May „ ...	21	15	107	12	62	50	8	254	134
June „ ...	15	9	59	9	61	59	22	219	132
July „ ...	13	9	67	0	55	25	7	163	115
August „ ...	21	20	58	10	93	87	3	271	180
September „ ...	22	21	102	20	121	118	31	413	219
Totals ...	241	185	1143	167	1180	795	248	3718	1924

Occupations of Readers in the Reference Library.

Accountants	7	Merchants	12
Actors	4	Miners	6
Advertisers	3	Miscellaneous	81
Agents, Collectors, and		Moulders	11
Travellers	44	Musicians	6
Architects and Surveyors	10	No occupation—Males ...	45
Artists	93	„ „ Females ...	29
Artists' Models	2	Not stated	158
Assistants	25	Nurses	7
Authors	2	Office Boys	5
Bakers and Confectioners	10	Painters	11
Brassfounders	3	Patentees	3
Builders	8	Patternmakers	12
Butchers	2	Photographers	7
Carpenters and Joiners...	12	Plumbers	4
Cashiers	20	Post Office Employees ...	5
Chemists	67	Printers	29
Clerks and Book-keepers	161	Pupil Teachers	9
Clergymen and Ministers	33	Railwaymen	2
Doctors, Surgeons, etc. ...	6	Scholars	266
Draughtsmen	38	School Masters	47
Editors	2	„ Mistresses	9
Electricians	15	„ Teachers	147
Engineers and Fitters ...	64	Science Teachers	26
Glassworkers	2	Secretaries	15
Inspectors	51	Shopkeepers	14
Insurance	7	Solicitors	7
Ironworkers	16	Students	113
Jewellers	4	Tailors	6
Journalists	39	Turners	6
Labourers	4	Typists	7
Machinists	7	Whitesmiths	5
Managers	37		
Masons	4		
Mechanics	12		
		Total ...	1924

NOTE.—3,718 volumes have been consulted by 1,924 readers, who have made a formal application in writing, but in addition to this, hundreds of References are made to Directories, Gazetteers, Newspapers, etc., of which no record is kept.

Newspapers Filed in the Reference Library.

West Bromwich Free Press.	West Bromwich Chronicle.
West Bromwich Weekly News.	Midland Advertiser.

Copies of the London "Times" and "Birmingham Daily Post" are kept for three months only.

LIBRARY
OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



"EDWARD IV. VISITING CAXTON'S PRINTING PRESS AT WESTMINSTER."

Painted by Mr. Stanley C. Rowles, A.R.C.A., London.
Second Master of the West Bromwich Art School.



“THE MAKING OF EARLY MANUSCRIPTS.”

Painted by Miss Lilian M. B. Hall.

Student at the West Bromwich Art School.

LIBRARY
OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

TABLE V.

Showing the Number and Classification of Volumes issued from the Lending Department since 1884.
(Statistics for first ten years may be seen in earlier reports.)

TABLE.	Days open.	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	K	TOTALS.		Average Vols.	Average Borrowers
												Volumes.	Borrowers.		
11th Report, 1884-5	229	1047	3862	141	2081	732	5010	28802	2037	5929	*227	49868	48238	218	210
12th " 1885-6	257	1108	5240	245	2455	876	6023	39566	2412	9405	1004	68334	65738	262	256
13th " 1886-7	253	983	5067	160	2127	872	5636	39231	2268	8833	732	65909	63347	260	250
14th " 1887-8	255	912	4271	115	1998	708	5555	38497	2002	7987	674	62419	60117	244	235
15th " 1888-9	241	564	3499	166	2032	628	4754	34796	1358	9867	571	58235	56118	241	232
16th " 1889-0	224	519	2867	132	1836	586	3994	31497	1206	9020	551	52298	49637	232	221
17th " 1890-1	230	539	3174	124	1650	428	3703	33085	1202	8334	523	52762	50116	229	217
18th " 1891-2	235	457	2645	107	1531	514	3008	33203	1199	7943	613	51220	50270	217	213
19th " 1892-3	231	449	2317	167	1626	547	2763	32198	1198	7751	748	49764	47520	215	205
20th " 1893-4	228	441	2318	139	a1735	645	2879	37773	1203	8403	846	56581	54273	248	238
21st " 1894-5	238	510	2786	143	1618	626	2905	40739	1229	8906	663	60125	58229	252	244
22nd " 1895-6	257	447	2322	108	1624	538	3117	40303	995	8722	492	58868	57634	229	223
23rd " 1896-7	241	400	2093	106	1469	385	3222	36949	1018	7461	627	53730	52443	223	216
24th " 1897-8	238	335	b2024	667	1237	b284	b2412	35218	6903	6000	666	49146	47682	207	200
25th " 1898-9	242	253	1342	45	957	162	1617	35392	667	4885	579	45899	45051	189	186
26th " 1899-1900	239	150	1336	78	783	146	772	33163	505	4652	449	42034	41379	176	173
27th " 1900-1	238	554	2758	267	2074	428	235	35080	1116	6194	970	49686	49094	209	206
28th " 1901-2	240	648	3278	519	2622	430	310	33286	1869	7038	1608	51608	51239	215	213
29th " 1902-3	241	722	3461	401	3510	517	295	38189	1820	7202	2012	58179	57879	241	240
30th " 1903-4	240	829	3687	490	4138	800	372	37134	1537	6919	2086	57992	57841	242	241
31st " 1904-5	240	768	3870	442	4244	712	311	42654	1472	9113	2145	65731	65644	274	273
32nd " 1905-6	239	733	3641	606	4011	723	254	44961	1653	9443	1917	67942	67847	284	284
33rd " 1906-7	220	775	3340	598	3985	732	224	42902	1552	10759	1816	66683	66593	303	303
34th " 1907-8	242	946	3616	648	4152	892	325	47532	1777	10075	1959	71922	71772	298	297
35th " 1908-9	237	980	3629	628	4272	865	301	46911	1679	11497	1931	72693	72470	307	306
36th " 1909-10	237	976	3379	730	4025	948	253	45505	1721	10500	1716	69753	69305	294	292
37th " 1910-11	238	1052	3441	774	4254	971	214	44746	1741	11756	1826	70775	70340	297	296
38th " 1911-12	239	914	3672	790	4389	913	101	49665	1757	12584	1822	76807	76256	321	315
39th " 1912-13	241	811	3694	827	4237	1242	...	47909	1930	10427	1934	73011	72605	303	301
TOTALS	9390	35614	147831	11577	99813	29942	119246	1570921	71307	303135	33707	2423093	2282612	258	243

* Borrowers can retain Musical Works two weeks.

† Since January, 1894, the time allowed for reading Theological and Philosophical Works has been extended from one to two weeks.

‡ Since January, 1894, the time allowed for reading Scientific Works has been extended from one to two weeks.

§ Since November, 1897, the time allowed for reading books in all classes, *excepting G and J*, has been extended to two weeks.

TABLE VI.

SHOWING THE NUMBER AND CLASSIFICATION OF VOLUMES CONSULTED
IN THE REFERENCE DEPARTMENT SINCE OPENING.

TABLE.	Days open.	A	B	C	D	E	F	No. of Consul- tations.	No. of Readers
1st Report, 1874	56	68	113	3	108	88	...	380	...
2nd " 1875-6	258	84	112	14	179	223	...	612	...
3rd " 1876-7	254	56	240	1	291	364	...	955	419
4th " 1877-8	256	69	395	20	276	379	...	1139	542
5th " 1878-9	256	121	326	6	340	718	...	1511	566
6th " 1879-80	252	215	308	3	332	881	...	1739	557
7th " 1880-1	210	239	224	1	222	419	...	1105	392
8th " 1881-2	257	315	243	9	230	389	...	1186	196
9th " 1882-3	253	209	190	3	147	275	...	824	161
10th { Mar 27 to Sep 30 '83	132	82	104	3	108	172	...	469	...
Rept. { Oct 1 '83--Sep 30 '84	256	265	171	7	163	307	...	913	...
11th " 1884-5	229	279	116	5	219	333	...	952	191
12th " 1885-6	257	384	487	20	218	988	...	2097	242
13th " 1886-7	253	299	341	21	311	781	...	1753	246
14th " 1887-8	255	150	536	11	329	1617	...	2643	279
15th " 1888-9	241	170	532	19	696	1142	...	2559	244
16th " 1889-90	224	187	407	23	737	980	...	2334	162
17th " 1890-1	230	42	423	21	853	619	...	1958	359
18th " 1891-2	218	111	226	12	842	621	...	1812	128
19th " 1892-3	231	91	163	4	443	586	...	1287	127
20th " 1893-4	228	52	152	6	284	466	...	960	130
21st " 1894-5	238	21	107	2	185	299	...	614	109
22nd " 1895-6	257	101	64	0	178	192	...	535	88
23rd " 1896-7	241	101	74	6	124	143	...	448	99
24th " 1897-8	238	35	46	2	146	171	...	400	105
25th " 1898-9	242	47	48	0	94	249	...	438	99
26th " 1899-1900	239	15	108	13	164	196	...	496	190
27th " 1900-1	238	87	625	33	306	488	...	1539	586
28th " 1901-2	240	118	446	44	464	500	...	1572	779
29th " 1902-3	241	243	929	71	716	615	...	2574	1532
30th " 1903-4	240	175	614	44	546	533	70	1982	1088
31st " 1904-5	240	141	593	63	615	578	190	2180	1050
32nd " 1905-6	239	167	874	69	595	475	114	2294	1175
33rd " 1906-7	220	207	930	177	775	392	227	2708	1146
34th " 1907-8	242	254	1141	209	1081	1044	219	3948	1771
35th " 1908-9	237	236	883	213	1036	1097	210	3675	1589
36th " 1909-10	237	208	1026	175	1541	709	217	3876	1719
37th " 1910-11	238	220	981	213	1741	805	140	4100	2239
38th " 1911-12	234	243	1335	181	1352	631	198	3940	2262
39th " 1912-13	241	185	1143	167	1180	795	248	3718	1924
TOTALS	9348	6295	17776	1894	20167	22260	1833	70225	24491

READING ROOMS.

Open from 9 a.m. to 9-30 p.m. daily.

CENTRAL.

The average daily attendance of readers is estimated at 2,000.

444 volumes are accessible to the public for use in the Reading Room only.

BRANCH No. 1—KENRICK PARK.

A Reading and News Room was opened at 215, Spon Lane, on the 1st January, 1883.

This Reading Room was transferred to the New Buildings, Kenrick Park, on Monday, the 28th September, 1903.

300 volumes are accessible to the public for use in the Reading Room only.

BRANCH No. 2—HILL TOP.

A Reading and News Room was opened on Monday, January 15th, 1883, at the office originally occupied by Mr. F. W. Topham.

This Reading Room was transferred to the New Public Buildings, Hill Top, on Monday, the 20th June, 1898.

388 volumes are accessible to the public for use in the Reading Room only.

BRANCH No. 3—GREET'S GREEN.

The Reading and News Room, which was opened on Wednesday, the 17th January, 1883, at No. 1, Great Bridge, was removed to the entrance to the Recreation Ground, Greet's Green, and opened on Monday, 1st August, 1892.

223 volumes are accessible to the public for use in the Reading Room only.

BRANCH No. 4—CHURCHFIELD.

A Reading and News Room was opened at 56, Tenscore Street, on Monday, 4th March, 1907.

82 volumes are accessible to the public for use in the Reading Room only.

DONATIONS OF BOOKS, Etc.

- Agent General for Nova Scotia, 57a, Pall Mall, London, S.W.*—
Nova Scotia.
- Blades, Alderman J. H., J.P., Oakhurst, West Bromwich*—
Alliance News (Weekly) to Greets Green Branch.
- Bennett and Co., Chapel Works, Granville Street, Birmingham*—
Business Directory, 1912-13.
- Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, Victoria Square, Birmingham*—
Birmingham Official Guide.
- Board of Trade, Commission for Labour, 44, Parliament Street, London*—
Reports as published.
- British Museum Authorities*—
Bible, Animals, Plants and Minerals.
Catalogue of Additional MSS. 1906-10.
 ,, ,, Engraved British Portraits. Vol. III.
 ,, ,, Lepidoptera Phalænæ.
Index to Hand List of Birds.
Mycetozoa.
History of the Collection. Vol. II. Appendix.
Catalogue of Mammals of Western Europe.
 ,, ,, Hume Collection of Indian Horns.
 ,, ,, Moths. Vol. XII.
 ,, ,, Marine Reptiles of Oxford Clay. Part II.
The House-Fly as a Danger to Health.
- Browne, T. B., Ltd., 163, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.*—
Advertisers' A. B. C.
- Carrington, Miss E., 18, Miles Road, Clifton, Bristol*—
Our Animal Brothers, etc. 7 vols.
- Covenant Publishing Co., 25, Fairland Road, Stratford, London*—
Bible Talks
- Crisp, Mr., G.W.R. Stationmaster, West Bromwich*—
Holiday Haunts, 1913.
- Emigrants' Information Office, 31, Broadway, Westminster*—
Handbooks respecting Emigration, chiefly to the British Colonies
- Health Resorts Association, 29, John Street, Bedford Row, London, W.C.*—
Guides.
- High Commissioner for Australia, 72, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.*—
Official Year Book, 1912 and 1913.

High Commissioner for New Zealand, 13, Victoria Street, London, S.W.—

Miscellaneous Literature relating to New Zealand.

Iron and Steel Institute, per G. C. Lloyd, 28, Victoria Street, London, S.W.—

Iron and Steel Institute Journal, 1912. Nos. 1 and 2.

List of Members.

Layton, Messrs. C. and E., 56, Farringdon Street, London, E.C.—
Newspaper List, 1913.

Insurance Register, 1913.

Library Reports (about 200).

Library Catalogues (various).

Mann, J. C., 33, Nicholls Street, West Bromwich—

Journal of Chemical Association, 1911, and Index.

Marconis Wireless Telegraph Co., Ltd., "Marconi House," Strand, London, W.C.—

Year Book of Wireless Telegraphy and Telephony, 1913.

National Union of Teachers (per the Secretary), 67, Russell Square, London, W.C.—

Report, etc., for 1913.

Patent Office Comptroller, 25, Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane—

Illustrated Official Journal.

Pittaway, E. C., 34, Cordley Street, West Bromwich—
Saul of Tarsus.

Pickles, J. E., Education Offices, West Bromwich—
Education in Relation to Industry.

Publishers and Proprietors for Reading Rooms—
Publications are denoted by an (a) on pages 9 and 10.

Sherwell, J. H., Lombard Street, West Bromwich—
Burgess List, 1913-14.

Silvester, Rev. J., Great Clacton Vicarage, Clacton-on-Sea—
Cranmer and the Prayer Book.

Church Finance and Church Reform.

Now and After.

Two Famous Preachers of Bath.

Smithsonian Institution (per C. D. Walcott), Washington, U.S.A.
Smithsonian Institution Report, 1911.

Stubbs Publishing Co., Ltd., "Dashwood House," New Broad Street, London, E.C.—

Stubbs Directory, 1913.

- Tomkins, J. G., Ltd., Lower High Street, West Bromwich—*
Love, Life and Memories Sweet. 2 copies.
- Town Clerk, Guildhall, London—*
Letter Book. L.
- University, Birmingham, per the Secretary—*
Calendar, 1912-13.
- University, Durham, per the Registrar—*
Calendar, 1912-13.
- University of Ireland, per the Registrar—*
Calendar, 1912.
- University, London, per the General Editor—*
Calendar and Guide, 1913.
- University of Wales (Cardiff), per the Registrar—*
Calendar, 1912-13.
- West Bromwich Corporation, per A. Wickham, Town Clerk—*
Burgess Roll, Parliamentary Register, and Parochial Register.
- West Bromwich Corporation, per G. W. Davis, Inspector of Weights
and Measures—*
Report for the year ending 31st March, 1913.
- West Bromwich Corporation, per H. Kirk, Borough Treasurer—*
Abstract of Accounts for the year ending 31st March, 1913.
- West Bromwich Corporation, per Dr. R. W. Stocks, Acting Medical
Officer of Health—*
Report of the Health of the County Borough.
- Working Men's Club and Institute Union, Ltd., "Club Union
Buildings," Clerkenwell Road, London, E.C.—*
Our Fifty Years.
- Yates, R. P., "Woodmanton," Wellington Road, Bournemouth—*
My Tour Through British Dominions Across the Sea. 5 copies.





FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

April 1st, 1912, to

March 31st, 1913.



1st April, 1912, to 31st March, 1913.

ACCOUNTS.	RECEIPTS.	ASSETS						INCOME from 1st April, 1912, to 31st March, 1913.		
		ACCURED BUT NOT RECEIVED.								
		31st March, 1912.			31st March, 1913.					
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Amount of Rate Aid ...	867 16 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	867 16 5	...	...
Central Library ...	123 11 7	...	...	...	...	...	...	123 11 7	...	...
Spon Lane Branch ...	1 6 10	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 6 10	...	...
Hill Top Branch ...	1 2 4	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 2 4	...	...
Greets Green Branch ...	1 3 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 3 1	...	...
Churchfields Branch ...	9 19 8	...	...	...	...	...	...	9 19 8	...	...
Payments in excess of Receipts	2 0 11									
Expenditure in excess of Income ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	54 0 6		
		£ 1007 0 10						£1059 0 5		

1st April, 1912, to 31st March, 1913.

PAYMENTS.

Central Library.	BRANCH READING ROOMS.				Total.
	Spon Lane.	Hill Top.	Greets Green.	Churchfields	
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
188 10 0	...	...	...	...	403 10 0
80 4 4	...	...	...	...	80 4 4
16 12 3	...	...	...	...	16 12 3
57 4 0	13 9 4	12 10 1	14 8 10	9 18 5	107 10 8
23 2 9	...	...	...	...	23 2 9
97 13 2	...	...	...	...	97 13 2
59 17 4	...	...	...	...	59 17 4
47 15 1	35 0 0	...	35 0 0	34 19 3	152 14 4
5 3 6	...	...	...	...	5 3 6
6 16 6	...	...	...	...	6 16 6
53 16 0	...	...	...	...	53 16 0
636 14 11	48 9 4	12 10 1	49 8 10	44 17 8	1007 0 10
636 14 11	48 9 4	12 10 1	49 8 10	44 17 8	1007 0 10

CAPITAL

To RECEIPTS.

£ s. d.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY

ANDREW CARNEGIE, Esq., LL.D.—

Donation of full cost of building	New	Free	
Public Library ... ..	...	...	7714 16 3

REVENUE ACCOUNT—

Appropriation of accumulated surplus of Penny Rate to defray cost of furnishing and equipment of New Free	
Public Library	1200 0 0

 £8,914 16 3

SPECIAL BOOK

To RECEIPTS.

£ s. d.

Balance brought forward	31 19 8
-------------------------	-----	-----	-----	---------

 £31 19 8

ACCOUNT.

BY PAYMENTS.

£ s. d.

BUILDING ACCOUNT.

NEW FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1907.

Cost of Construction and Equipment	8914 16 3
------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----------

£8,914 16 3

FUND ACCOUNT.

BY PAYMENTS.

£ s. d.


Cost of Books purchased during the year	...	...	11 10 10
BALANCE, 31st March, 1913—			
In hands of Treasurer	...	...	20 8 10

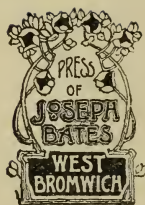
£31 19 8

BALANCE SHEET—

LIABILITIES.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
CAPITAL ACCOUNT.									
TRUST ACCOUNT—									
Gift of Andrew Carnegie, Esq., LL.D., of full cost of construction of New Library ...				7714	16	3			
BALANCE, being Appropriation from Revenue Account to defray cost of furnishing and equipment of New Free Public Library ...				1200	0	0			
							8914	16	3
SPECIAL ACCOUNT.									
SPECIAL BOOK FUND ACCOUNT—									
Unexpended balance ... ..				...			20	8	10
REVENUE ACCOUNT.									
SUNDRY CREDITORS for balances due to them ...				148	18	0			
SURPLUS—									
Balance, 31st March, 1912 ...	260	7	8						
Less—Expenditure in excess of Income for year ended 31st March, 1913 ...	54	0	6						
				206	7	2			
							355	5	2
H. KIRK, A.S.A.A., BOROUGH TREASURER.									
GUILDFORD O. HODGES, LIBRARIAN AND SECRETARY.									
							£	9290	10 3

31st March, 1913.

ASSETS.			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
CAPITAL ACCOUNT.								
NEW FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDINGS—								
Complete cost of construction and equipment			8914	16	3			
								
						8914	16	3
SPECIAL ACCOUNT.								
SPECIAL BOOK FUND ACCOUNT—								
CASH in hands of Treasurer	...	...	...			20	8	10
REVENUE ACCOUNT.								
CASH in hands of Treasurer	...	...	...			355	5	2
Audited and found correct, GEO. T. COLEMAN, F.C.A., } CLEMENT KEYS, A.C.A., } Auditors.								
			£	9290 10 3				



LIBRARY
OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



MURAL, PAINTINGS REPRESENTING MUSIC AND ART.

County Borough of West Bromwich.



40th ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Free Library Committee.

PRESENTED TO THE TOWN COUNCIL,

November, 1914.

FORM OF BEQUEST.

I bequeath out of such part of my personal estate as may by Law be bequeathed for such purposes, to the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of West Bromwich, in the County of Staffordshire, the sum of

free from Legacy Duty, for the benefit of the Public Libraries of the said Borough, to be expended in such way as the Committee for the time being may deem expedient; and I direct that the receipt of the Treasurer for the time being of the said Borough shall be an effectual discharge for the same Legacy.

AREA, 5,860 ACRES.
POPULATION IN 1911, 68,345.
HOUSES, 15,179.
RATEABLE VALUE, £234,906 10s. 0d.

Chronological History.

- 1870 Public Libraries Act unanimously adopted, 30th November.
1873 Mr. P. D. Bennett appointed first Chairman, 7th January.
1874 D. Dickinson appointed Librarian, 13th February.
1874 Central Newsroom opened, 31st August.
1875 Lending Library opened 15th February.
1875 Reference Library opened, 15th March.
1876 Henry Williams, Esq., appointed Chairman, 21st June.
1882 Mr. C. H. Bayley, Hon. Secretary, died in November.
1882 Librarian appointed Secretary.
1883 Branch Reading Room opened, Spon Lane, 1st January.
1883 " " " Hill Top, 15th January.
1883 " " " Greets Green, 17th January.
1884 Subscription Library formed and opened, 1st January.
1891 Mr. J. Manley appointed Chairman, 18th November.
1892 Branch Reading Room at Great Bridge transferred to Farley Park, Greets Green, 1st August.
1895 Permission granted to the Science and Art Masters to borrow books from the Reference Library for the use of Students at the Institute, 18th December; cancelled, July, 1902.
1898 Branch Reading Room at Hill Top transferred to the Park at Hill Top in July.
1900 Death of Mr. D. Dickinson, 8th March. (First Librarian.)
1900 Mr. Guildford O. Hodges appointed Librarian, 6th April.
1902 Councillor H. L. Browne appointed Chairman, 12th February.
1902 Fifth Edition of Lending Library Catalogue Published, April.
1903 Spon Lane Reading Room transferred to Kenrick Park in September.
1905 Dr. Andrew Carnegie offers £7,500 for a new Library, 24th June.
1905 Dr. Andrew Carnegie's offer accepted by Town Council, 5th July.
1906 Foundation Stone of New Free Library laid, April 27th, by Councillor H. Langley Browne, M.D.
1907 Branch Reading Room opened, Churchfield, 4th March.
1907 New Central Library opened, 10th June, by His Worship the Mayor, Councillor J. E. Wilson, J.P.
1907 Reference Library "Sheaf" Catalogue Published. June.
1908 Memorial Tablet to D. C. Murray, erected December.
1909 Sixth Edition of Lending Library Catalogue, Published; also Juvenile Catalogue.
1909 First Mural Decoration fixed September, the gift of John Spencer, Esq., J.P.
1910 First Course of University Extension Lectures given.
1910 Students' Tickets introduced. September.
1911 Two further Mural Panels, painted by Mr. Wilkinson.
1912 Fourth Mural Panel, presented by Members of Subscription Library.
1913 Fifth and Sixth Mural Panels, representing "Manuscripts" and "Caxton's Printing Press."
1914 Author and Title Index, of books in Lending Library, placed in Corridor and opened for public use, May, 1914.
1914 Two further Mural Panels, "Art" and "Music," painted by Miss Hall.
1914 Card Charging in Lending Library, July.

1913-14.

Committee.

COUNCILLOR H. L. BROWNE, M.D., LL.D. (CHAIRMAN).

REV. J. W. JONES, M.A. (DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN).

ALDERMAN J. H. BLADES, J.P.

COUNCILLOR C. S. BACHE (MAYOR).

COUNCILLOR J. ANDERSON.

COUNCILLOR J. A. KENRICK.

COUNCILLOR J. WHEATLEY.

MR. A. CADDICK
(died, Mar. 7th, 1914.)

MR. J. G. GIFFORD

REV. F. A. HOMER

MR. J. A. PEARCE

DR. H. B. W. PLUMMER, M.D.
(died, Mar. 18th, 1914.)

MR. H. TOMBLIN

MR. G. WALTON WALKER
(elected, June.)

MR. T. WHITEHURST
(elected, June.)

MR. W. S. WATTS

—:o:—

Book-Buying and Emergency Committee.

COUNCILLOR H. L. BROWNE, M.D., LL.D.

COUNCILLOR J. A. KENRICK.

COUNCILLOR J. ANDERSON.

MR. A. CADDICK.

REV. J. W. JONES, M.A.

DR. H. B. W. PLUMMER, M.D.

—:o:—

Librarian and Secretary.

GUILDFORD O. HODGES, F.L.A.

—:o:—

Assistants.

MISS M. A. REEVES.

MISS R. HARTLAND.

MISS N. BAYLISS.

MISS M. HARRIS.

—:o:—

CARETAKER:—WILLIAM DAVIS.

—:o:—

Branches.

CARETAKER, No. 1—KENRICK PARK: J. C. COOPER.

„ No. 2—HILL TOP: J. WHITEHOUSE.

„ No. 3—GREET'S GREEN: H. JONES.

„ No. 4—CHURCHFIELD: MRS. WOODHALL.

FORTIETH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
COMMITTEE
OF THE
West Bromwich Public Library.

*TO HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR AND CORPORATION OF
THE BOROUGH OF WEST BROMWICH.*

SIR AND GENTLEMEN,

Your Committee have much pleasure in presenting their Fortieth Annual Report, and are glad to state that the Institution in its several departments has had a year of great usefulness and appreciation.

COMMITTEE.—Owing to the deaths of Mr. Alfred Caddick and Dr. H. B. W. Plummer (two useful members of the Committee), two vacancies occurred. Colonel G. Walton Walker and Mr. T. Whitehurst were elected to fill the vacancies.

LENDING DEPARTMENT.

STOCK.—During the year there has been added to this department, by purchase, 138 volumes; by presentation, 5; by transfer from Subscription Library, 228; total, 371.

STOCK-TAKING AND RE-ORGANISATION. — The Libraries were closed for this purpose on July 1st and re-opened on July 20th. It is gratifying to report, as a result of the Stock-taking, no loss whatever.

The final work of re-organisation was also completed, and the method of issuing books changed from the "Ledger" to the up-to-date "Card Charging System," which has materially facilitated the issue of books, and is much appreciated by the Borrowers.

CATALOGUES.—The most important work in Cataloguing during the year has been the typing and compilation of an "Author and Title Index" (of all books in the Lending Library), consisting of about 26,000 cards. On these cards full particulars of every book is given and they are fixed in a specially designed cabinet and placed in the Central Corridor for use by the Borrowers. This system possesses the advantage of always being up-to-date, inasmuch as additions made to the Library, after being typed on cards, can be inserted at any time. (See illustration.)

The utility of this Index has already exceeded the most sanguine expectations.

A Supplementary Catalogue (Classified) was also printed and published of all books added to the Lending Department since 1909.

ISSUES.—For home reading and study, 72,864 borrowers have borrowed 73,127 volumes, the daily average for the year being 310. This is an increase on last year's figures, and constitutes a record, except for the year 1911-12, when the average was 321.

BORROWERS' CARDS.—1,270 new cards were issued this year; of these 76 were Students or Non-Fiction Cards. The actual number of Borrowers' Cards in use on September 30th, 1914, was 2,626.

CONDITION OF BOOKS.—The heavy circulation of the books involves considerable wear and tear; the work of examining the stock is constantly in progress. During the past year 188 worn-out and obsolete books have been withdrawn, 245 have been re-placed by new copies, 410 have been re-bound, and 1,545 have been repaired on the premises by the Library staff.

The special displays of New Books and Books on Current Topics in the Glass Cases on the Counter have continued to be very popular, and many good books are brought to public notice in this way. (See illustration.)

This department now consists of 12,432 volumes.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

The work of this department is particularly gratifying, for all the books here are valuable and full of useful information.

Many students have no opportunity of obtaining these books, and would have to go without the knowledge contained therein, if they could not use them in the Library.

CONSULTATIONS.—3,872 volumes were consulted by 2,426 readers, against 3,718 volumes by 1,924 readers the previous year, thus constituting a record for readers in the Reference Library since opening.

OPEN ACCESS.—Owing to the theft of "Plates" and bad mutilation of valuable local books, taken from the shelves by readers who had not filled up a "Reader's Form," your Committee have felt compelled to fix a "rail" in front of books in this department, by which means readers are prevented from helping themselves, but can just as easily see the books.

No record is kept of the hundreds of references made to directories, year books, calendars, bound magazines, etc., which are upon the public shelves in the Central Reading Room.

STOCK.—During the year 76 volumes were added to this department; by purchase, 63; by gift, 12; by transfer from Subscription Library, 1.

This department now consists of 4,340 volumes.

READING ROOMS.

In spite of the enormous use which is made of the Central and Branch Reading Rooms and of their constantly crowded condition, there has been no serious disorder. The average daily attendance at the Central is over 2,000. A good number of Newspapers, Periodicals, etc., are supplied in each.

MISCELLANEA.

LECTURES AND EXHIBITIONS. — The Librarian gave two Lectures and arranged also an exhibition of books at each.

Jan. 19 “Books: How we got them. A Sketch of the Making of Manuscripts and of the Art of Printing.”

Feb. 2 “Books: What they contain. A Sketch of their Charm and Witchery.”

The Lectures were well attended. At the first, a number of the best books from the Reference Library were displayed, and at the second, a large variety of books from the Lending Library were on view, those present being cordially invited, at the close of each Lecture, to examine the books, which they did, and thoroughly appreciated it. Many expressions of pleasure and surprise that the Libraries contained such books were heard.

MURAL PAINTINGS.—Mr. Stanley C. Rowles, Second Master of the local Art School, presented to the Library a further decorative panel, the “Coat of Arms of Edward IV.,” to fit in a space under his painting of “Caxton and his Printing Press.” Miss Lilian M. B. Hall, pupil at above School, has also given two other panels, representing “Music,” “Art”; two others are being painted by Miss Hall, representing “Poetry” and “Drama,” but these are not yet finished.

The Committee are proud of this Central Hall, where the “Mural Decorations” now present a new feature of attraction to the building.

THE LECTURE HALL was again well patronised, attracting many societies to hold their meetings there. The Wild Flower Stand exhibits were also appreciated during the summer months, and the Holiday Information Literature was in constant use during the holiday season.

Since the outbreak of War in Europe, war maps have been displayed on a notice board in the Central Hall. These maps proved very useful and were eagerly used each day.

CONCLUSION.—The Committee feel, in reviewing the work of the past year, that the institution has again maintained its usefulness to residents.

The members of the Library Staff have carried out their duties efficiently, and have rendered much assistance to readers.

ATTENDANCES.

There have been twelve meetings of the Committee and one Sub-Committee meeting, the attendance of the members being as follows:—

	Summoned.	Attended.
The Mayor (Councillor C. S. Bache) ...	11	8
Alderman J. H. Blades... ..	12	8
Councillor H. Langley Browne (Chairman)...	13	12
Councillor J. Anderson... ..	13	7
Councillor J. A. Kenrick	12	5
Councillor J. Wheatley... ..	12	11
Mr. Alfred Caddick (died, Mar. 7th, 1914)	7	0
Mr. J. G. Gifford	12	3
Rev. F. A. Homer	12	7
Rev. J. W. Jones (Deputy-Chairman) ...	13	11
Mr. J. A. Pearce	12	11
Dr. H. B. W. Plummer (died, Mar. 18th, 1914)	8	4
Mr. H. Tomblin	12	9
Mr. G. Walton Walker (elected, June) ...	4	2
Mr. T. Whitehurst (elected, June) ...	4	2
Mr. W. S. Watts	12	5

Signed on behalf of the Free Library Committee,

H. LANGLEY BROWNE, Chairman.

GUILDFORD O. HODGES, Librarian.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES AND PERIODICALS SUPPLIED TO THE READING ROOMS.

(Those marked *a* are presented.)

NAME.

CENTRAL
KENRICK PARK
HILL TOP
GREETS GREEN
CHURCHFIELD

DAILY.

Birmingham—Evening Despatch	1	1	1	1	1
„ Gazette	2	1	1	1	1
„ Mail	3	2	1	1	2
„ Post	3	1	1	1	1
Daily Citizen	1				
Daily Herald	1				
Daily Sketch	1				
Liverpool Mercury	1				
London—Chronicle	1			1	
„ Daily Mail	1	1	1	1	1
„ Daily News	1	1	1	1	1
„ Standard	1	1	1	1	1
„ Telegraph	1				
„ Times	1				
Yorkshire Post	1				
Wolverhampton—Evening Ex- press and Star	1		1	1	1

WEEKLY.

<i>a</i> Alliance News				1	
American Machinist	1				
Architect	1				
Athenæum	1				
Birmingham Weekly Mercury	1				
<i>a</i> Board of Trade Journal	1				
Bookseller	1				
<i>a</i> Bournemouth Visitors' Directory	1				
Boys Own Paper	1	1			
<i>a</i> British Australasian	1				
Builder	1				
Building News	1				
„ World			1		
<i>a</i> Canadian	1				
<i>a</i> Canadian Gazette	1				
<i>a</i> Canadian Mail	1				
Canadian News	1				
<i>a</i> Civil Service Aspirant	1				
Clarion	1				
<i>a</i> Clark's Educator	1				
<i>a</i> Clerk	1				
<i>a</i> Colliery Guardian	1				
Common Cause	1				
<i>a</i> Contract Journal	1				
<i>a</i> Contractors' Record	1				
Dublin Freeman	1				
<i>a</i> Dudley Herald	1				
Electrical Review	1				
Engineer	1	1	1		
Engineering	1				
<i>a</i> English Churchman	1				
„ Mechanic	1	1	1	1	1
Era	1				

NAME.

CENTRAL
KENRICK PARK
HILL TOP
GREETS GREEN
CHURCHFIELD

<i>a</i> Evesham Journal	1				
Exchange and Mart	1				
Fishing Gazette	1				
Garden			1		
Gardening	1				
Gas World	1				
Gentlewoman	1				
Good Words		1	1		
Graphic	1	1	1	1	
Illustrated London News	1	1	1	1	1
<i>a</i> India	1				
<i>a</i> Investors' Guardian	1				
<i>a</i> Iron and Coal Trades Review	1				
<i>a</i> Kidderminster Shuttle	1				
<i>a</i> Labour Leader	1				
Ladies' Field	1				
Lady	1				
Lady's Pictorial	1				
<i>a</i> Local Government Chronicle	1				
<i>a</i> Local Government Journal	1				
<i>a</i> Machinery Market	1				
<i>a</i> Midland Advertiser	3	1	1	1	1
<i>a</i> Midland Counties Herald	1				
Mining Journal	1				
<i>a</i> Motor Traction	1				
Nature	1				
<i>a</i> Patents (Illustrated Official Jnl.)	1				
<i>a</i> Phonetic Journal		1	1	1	
Photographic News	1				
Photography and Focus	1				
<i>a</i> Practical Engineer	1				
<i>a</i> Present Truth	1				
Punch	1	1	1	1	
Queen	1				
<i>a</i> School Government Chronicle	1				
Scotsman	1				
Smallholder					1
<i>a</i> Smethwick Telephone	1				
Spectator	1				
Sphere	1				
Sporting and Dramatic News	1				
Staffordshire Advertiser	1				
<i>a</i> Suffragette	1				
Truth	1				
<i>a</i> Walsall Advertiser	1				
<i>a</i> Warwickshire Advertiser	1				
<i>a</i> Wednesbury Herald	1				
Wellington Journal	1				
<i>a</i> West Bromwich Chronicle	3	1	1	1	1
<i>a</i> „ „ Free Press	4	1	1	1	1
<i>a</i> „ „ Weekly News	2	1	1	1	1
<i>a</i> Wolverhampton Chronicle	1		1	1	
<i>a</i> Worcester Herald	1				
Work	1				1

NAME.	CENTRAL	KENRICK PARK	HILL TOP	GREENS	CHURCHFIELD	NAME.	CENTRAL	KENRICK PARK	HILL TOP	GREENS	CHURCHFIELD
MONTHLY.						<i>a</i> Patent Office Journal ...	1				
<i>a</i> Abolitionist ...	1	1	1	1	1	<i>a</i> Patents ...	1				
<i>a</i> Acetylene Journal ...	1					<i>a</i> Positivist Review ...	1				
<i>a</i> Agricultural Economist ...	1					Power User ...	1				
<i>a</i> " Record ...	1					<i>a</i> Protestant Observer ...	1				
<i>a</i> Animals Friend ...	1					Quiver ...	1				1
<i>a</i> Animals Guardian ...	1					<i>a</i> Railway Clerk ...	1				
<i>a</i> Arbitrator ...	1	1	1	1	1	<i>a</i> Railway Time Tables—					
Band of Hope ...	1	1	1	1	1	Bradshaw's Guide ...	1				
<i>a</i> B'ham Chamber of Commerce						<i>a</i> Caledonian ...	1				
Journal ...	1					<i>a</i> Cambrian ...	1				
<i>a</i> Bluejacket and Soldier ...	1					<i>a</i> Glasgow and South-Western ...	1				
Boys Own Paper ...	1			1		<i>a</i> Great Eastern ...	1				
<i>a</i> Britain's Opium Harvest ...	1					<i>a</i> Great Northern ...	1				
British Workman ...	1	1	1	1		<i>a</i> Great Western ...	1				
Captain ...	1				1	<i>a</i> Lancashire and Yorkshire ...	1				
Cassell's Magazine of Fiction ...	1	1	1	1	1	<i>a</i> London and North-Western ...	1				
Century Magazine ...	1				1	<i>a</i> Midland ...	1				
Chambers' Journal ...	1	1	1	1	1	<i>a</i> North British ...	1				
<i>a</i> Church Gazette ...	1					<i>a</i> North Eastern ...	1				
<i>a</i> Clerk of Works Journal ...	1					White and Pike ...	1				1
<i>a</i> Conservative and Unionist ...	1					<i>a</i> Representation ...	1				
Contemporary Review ...	1					Review of Reviews, ...	1				
<i>a</i> Deceased Seamen ...	2					Scribner ...	1				
<i>a</i> Educational Review ...	1					St. Nicholas ...	1				
<i>a</i> Educational Times ...	1					Strand Magazine ...	1	1	1	1	
English Illustrated ...	1	1		1		Studio ...	1				
English Review ...	1					Sunday at Home ...		1	1		
English Woman ...	1					<i>a</i> Travellers Gazette ...	1				
<i>a</i> Ferro Concrete ...	1					<i>a</i> Vaccination Inquirer ...	1				
<i>a</i> Foresters' Review ...	1					<i>a</i> Vegetarian Messenger ...	1				
Fortnightly Review ...	1					<i>a</i> Vulcan ...	1				
<i>a</i> Good Health ...	1				1	<i>a</i> War and Peace ...	1				
Girls' Own Paper ...	1					<i>a</i> White Ribbon ...	1				
<i>a</i> G. W. R. Magazine ...	1					Windsor Magazine ...	1	1			1
Harper's Magazine ...	1					Woman at Home ...					1
<i>a</i> Herald of the Cross ...	1					Young Man ...					1
<i>a</i> Herald of the Golden Age ...	1					<i>a</i> Zoophilist ...	1	1	1	1	1
<i>a</i> Herald of Health ...	1					QUARTERLY.					
<i>a</i> Home ...	1					<i>a</i> Bird Notes and News ..	1				
<i>a</i> I.C.S. Student ...	1	1	1	1	1	<i>a</i> Educationist ...	1				
<i>a</i> Insurance Agents' Review ...	1					Hibbert Journal ...	1				
<i>a</i> Labour Gazette ...	1			1		<i>a</i> Men's Magazine ...	1				
Lady's World ...	1					<i>a</i> Needlework ...	1				
<i>a</i> Land Nationaliser ...	1					AS PUBLISHED.					
<i>a</i> Liberator ...	1					<i>a</i> Anti-Slavery Report ...	1				
Macfadden's Magazine ...	1					<i>a</i> Civil Service Candidate ...	1				
<i>a</i> Mothers' Union Journal ...	1					<i>a</i> Emigration Circulars ...	20	1	1	1	1
<i>a</i> Musical Herald ...	1					<i>a</i> Individualist ...	1				
National Review ...	1					National Home Reading Union					
<i>a</i> New Church Magazine ...	1					Journals ..	All				
Nineteenth Century ...	1					<i>a</i> Queensland Mining Journal ...	1				
<i>a</i> Nursing Notes ...	1					<i>a</i> University Correspondent ...	1				
<i>a</i> Our Animal Brothers ...	1										
<i>a</i> Our Flag ...	1										

TABLE I.

SHOWING STOCK IN LIBRARIES AND BRANCH READING ROOMS.

Lending Library.					
In Stock previously	...	...	...	...	12249
Withdrawn	...	...	...	138	
Worn out and out of print...	...	...	...	50	
Volumes lost by replacement of Works in several volumes, by editions in one volume				0	
Total loss ascertained out of issue of 73,127 vols.				0	
					<hr/> 188
					<hr/> 12061
Added during the year:—					
By Gift	...	...	...	5	
„ Purchase	...	...	...	138	
„ Transfer from Subscription Library	...	...	...	228	
					<hr/> 371
Total Stock in Lending Library					<hr/> 12432
Reference Library.					
In Stock previously	...	...	...	...	4264
Withdrawn	...	...	...	0	
					<hr/> 0
					<hr/> 4264
Added during the year:—					
By Gift	...	...	...	12	
„ Purchase	...	...	...	63	
Transfer from Subscription Library	...	...	...	1	
					<hr/> 76
Total Stock in Reference Library					<hr/> 4340
Branch Reading Rooms.					
Kenrick Park	...	...	...	...	300
Hill Top	...	...	...	...	388
Greets Green	...	...	...	...	223
Churchfield	...	...	...	...	79
					<hr/> 990
Total Stock.					
Lending Library	...	...	...	...	12432
Reference Library	...	...	...	...	4340
Branch Reading Rooms	...	...	...	...	990
Central Reading Room	...	...	...	...	461
					<hr/> 461
					<hr/> 18223
					<hr/> <hr/>

TABLE II.

SHOWING THE NUMBER OF VOLUMES IN EACH CLASS IN REFERENCE
AND LENDING DEPARTMENTS.

Lending Library.

A.	Theology and Philosophy	...	...	618
B.	History, Biography, and Travels	...	...	2857
C.	Law, Politics, and Commerce...	...	...	291
D.	Science, Art, and Natural History	...	...	1183
E.	Poetry and Drama	...	...	477
F.	Magazines and Reviews	...	...	—
G.	Fiction	...	...	5189
H.	Miscellaneous Literature	...	...	692
J.	Juvenile Literature	...	...	827
K.	Music	...	...	298
				12432

Reference Library.

A.	Theology and Philosophy	...	...	480
B.	History, Biography, and Travels	...	...	1095
C.	Law, Politics, and Commerce...	...	...	84
D.	Science, Art, and Natural History	...	...	796
E.	Miscellaneous Literature, Encyclo- pædias, etc.	...	...	1738
F.	Poetry and Drama	...	...	147
				4340

16772

TABLE III.

Classified Return of the Volumes borrowed from the Lending Library during the Twelve Months ending Sept. 30th, 1914.

DATE.	Days open.	Theology & Philosophy.	History, Biography, and Travels.	Law, Politics and Commerce.	Science and Art.	Poetry and Drama.	Magazines and Reviews.	*Fiction.	Miscellaneous Literature.	*Juvenile Literature.	Music.	Totals.		Daily Average Volumes.	Daily Average Borrowers.
												Vols.	Borrowers.		
October 1913	...	80	379	97	441	108	...	4582	217	958	211	7073	7038	367	365
November	...	80	360	76	413	97	...	4690	195	866	180	6937	6922	331	330
December	...	86	285	55	347	114	...	4390	156	916	184	6533	6509	297	296
January 1914	...	74	362	78	463	118	...	5050	190	1021	164	7520	7499	342	340
February	...	108	342	97	429	118	...	4404	223	945	171	6837	6811	342	340
March	...	107	391	86	505	101	...	4453	243	1139	204	7229	7199	329	327
April	...	75	297	39	384	105	...	4384	128	931	136	6479	6446	341	339
May	...	78	361	52	384	119	...	4682	172	1002	148	6998	6982	318	317
June	...	51	188	47	223	63	...	2657	113	540	113	3995	3974	285	284
July	...	16	72	8	152	17	...	1264	27	259	36	1851	1848	206	205
August	...	79	401	79	422	94	...	3151	249	778	198	5451	5444	260	259
September	...	72	360	69	389	106	..	3948	184	886	190	6204	6192	282	281
Totals	236	906	3798	783	4552	1160	...	47655	2097	10241	1935	73127	72864	310	309

*Time allowed for reading works of Fiction and Juvenile Literature, 7 days ; all other classes, 14 days.

Occupations of Borrowers admitted to Lending Department during the year.

Actresses	2	Milliners	12
Agents, Collectors, and Travellers	15	Miners	5
Analysts	2	Ministers	17
Apprentices	12	Miscellaneous	5
Architects and Surveyors	5	Moulders	16
Artists	10	Musicians	10
Assistants	19	No occupations	50
Bakers and Confectioners	7	Not stated	118
Bookbinders	8	Nurses	25
Bootmakers	5	Office Boys	12
Builders	11	Packers	6
Butchers	12	Painters	18
Caretakers	10	Patternmakers	5
Carpenters and Joiners ...	9	Photographers	9
Cashiers	6	Polishers	6
Castors	5	Post Office Employees—	
Chemists	20	Males	17
Clerks and Book-keepers—		Females	3
Males	111	Printers	25
Females	25	Railwaymen	8
Doctors	20	Scholars—Boys	89
Drapers	16	„ Girls	30
Draughtsmen	26	School Teachers—Males	60
Dressmakers	16	„ Females	20
Electricians	19	„ Masters	16
Engineers and Fitters ...	39	„ Mistresses	9
Glassworkers	10	Servants—Domestic ...	13
Grocers	14	Shopkeepers	18
Hairdressers	13	Smiths	9
Housekeepers	3	Solicitors	9
Inspectors	24	Students	28
Ironworkers	9	Tailors	12
Labourers	5	Turners	6
Machinists	6	Typists	16
Managers	12	Warehousemen	5
Manufacturers	2	Wives and Daughters ...	25
Mechanics	6		
Merchants	4		
		Total	1270

Ages of New Borrowers.

Under 14	198	35 to 40	67	60 and over	21
14 to 19	283	40 to 45	51	Not stated : Males	59
20 to 25	196	45 to 50	31	„ Females	87
25 to 30	146	50 to 55	24		
30 to 35	94	55 to 60	13	Total	1270

REFERENCE LIBRARY.

TABLE IV.

CLASSIFIED RETURNS OF VOLUMES CONSULTED IN THE REFERENCE
LIBRARY.

During the twelve months ended 30th September, 1914.

DATE.	Days open.	Theology and Philosophy.	History, Biogra- phy and Travels.	Law, Politics and Commerce.	Science, Art and Natural History.	Encyclopaedias, Dictionaries and Miscel. Literature	Poetry and Drama.	Number of Con- sultations.	Number of Readers.
October 1913 ...	22	18	95	18	83	79	23	316	203
November „ ...	21	28	76	9	72	143	22	350	211
December „ ...	22	14	96	20	127	178	32	467	280
January 1914 ...	22	20	102	14	133	78	23	370	241
February „ ...	20	24	99	14	155	139	26	457	240
March „ ...	22	20	96	10	95	79	27	327	260
April „ ...	19	18	47	7	136	65	19	292	204
May „ ...	22	16	100	13	105	74	20	328	214
June „ ...	14	10	69	12	87	48	13	239	152
July „ ...	9	5	39	5	32	20	19	120	58
August „ ...	21	20	74	5	137	41	12	289	183
September „ ...	22	6	145	36	55	57	18	317	180
Totals ...	236	199	1038	163	1217	1001	254	3872	2426

Occupations of Readers in the Reference Library.

Accountants	12	Merchants	20
Actors	8	Miners	10
Advertisers	7	Miscellaneous	14
Agents, Collectors, and		Moulders	13
Travellers	22	Musicians	13
Architects and Surveyors	14	No occupations—Males ...	58
Artists	10	Females	51
Artists' Models	3	Not stated	163
Assistants	41	Nurses	17
Authors	3	Office Boys	17
Bakers and Confectioners	13	Painters	23
Brassfounders	6	Patentees	12
Builders	18	Patternmakers	31
Butchers	17	Photographers	28
Carpenters and Joiners...	25	Plumbers	16
Cashiers	30	Post Office Employees ...	20
Chemists	30	Printers	50
Clerks and Book-keepers	217	Pupil Teachers	63
Clergymen and Ministers	34	Railwaymen	17
Doctors, Surgeons, etc. ...	19	Scholars	319
Draughtsmen	100	School Masters	72
Editors	14	,, Mistresses	26
Electricians	37	,, Teachers	147
Engineers and Fitters ...	92	Science Teachers	33
Glassworkers	14	Secretaries	14
Inspectors	33	Shopkeepers	20
Insurance	20	Solicitors	13
Ironworkers	11	Students	90
Jewellers	10	Tailors	8
Journalists	63	Turners	20
Labourers	5	Typists	20
Machinists	4	Whitesmiths	7
Managers	24		
Masons	5		
Mechanics	40		
		Total	2426

NOTE.—3,872 volumes have been consulted by 2,426 readers, who have made a formal application in writing, but in addition to this, hundreds of References are made to Directories, Gazetteers, Newspapers, etc., of which no record is kept.

Newspapers Filed in the Reference Library.

West Bromwich Free Press.

West Bromwich Chronicle.

West Bromwich Weekly News.

Midland Advertiser.

Copies of the London "Times" and "Birmingham Daily Post" are kept for three months only.

LIBRARY
OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



CARD INDEX FOR PUBLIC USE.



SHOW CASES FOR RECENT ADDITIONS.



LECTUREⁿ HALL.



MURAL DECORATIONS IN CENTRAL HALL.

LIBRARY
OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

TABLE V.

Showing the Number and Classification of Volumes issued from the Lending Department since 1884.
(Statistics for first ten years may be seen in earlier reports.)

TABLE.	Days open.	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	K	TOTALS.		Average Tower Vols.	Average Bor- rowers.	
												Volumes.	Borrowers.			
11th Report,	...	1047	3862	141	2081	732	5010	28802	2037	5929	*227	49868	48238	218	210	
12th "	...	229	1108	245	2455	876	6023	39566	2412	9405	1004	68334	65738	262	256	
13th "	...	253	983	160	2127	872	5636	39231	2268	8833	732	65909	63347	260	250	
14th "	...	255	912	115	1998	708	5555	38497	2002	7687	674	62419	60117	244	235	
15th "	...	241	564	166	2032	628	4754	34796	1358	9867	571	58255	56118	241	232	
16th "	...	224	519	132	1836	586	3994	31497	1296	9020	551	52298	49637	232	221	
17th "	...	230	539	124	1650	428	3703	33085	1202	8334	523	52762	50116	229	217	
18th "	...	235	457	107	1531	514	3008	33203	1199	7943	613	51220	50270	217	213	
19th "	...	231	449	167	1626	547	2763	32198	1198	7751	748	49764	47520	215	205	
20th "	...	228	441	139	a1735	645	2879	37773	1203	8403	846	56581	54273	248	238	
21st "	...	238	510	143	1618	626	2905	40739	1229	8906	663	60125	58229	252	244	
22nd "	...	257	447	108	1624	538	3117	40503	995	8722	492	58868	57634	229	223	
23rd "	...	241	400	106	1469	385	3222	36949	1018	7461	627	53730	52443	223	216	
24th "	...	238	335	b2024	667	1237	b2412	35218	6903	6000	666	49146	47682	207	200	
25th "	...	242	253	45	957	162	1617	35392	667	4885	579	45899	45051	189	186	
26th "	...	239	150	78	783	146	772	33163	505	4652	449	42034	41379	176	173	
27th "	...	238	534	267	2074	428	235	35080	1116	6194	970	49686	49094	209	206	
28th "	...	240	648	519	2622	430	310	33286	1869	7038	1608	51608	51239	215	213	
29th "	...	241	772	401	3510	517	295	38189	1820	7202	2012	58179	57879	241	240	
30th "	...	240	829	3687	490	4138	372	37134	1537	6919	2086	57992	57841	242	241	
31st "	...	240	768	3870	442	4244	712	311	42654	1472	9113	2145	65731	65644	274	273
32nd "	...	239	733	606	4011	723	254	44961	1653	9443	1917	67942	67847	284	284	
33rd "	...	220	775	598	3985	732	224	42902	1552	10759	1816	66683	66593	303	303	
34th "	...	242	946	648	4152	892	325	47532	1777	10075	1959	71922	71772	298	297	
35th "	...	237	980	628	4272	865	301	46911	1679	11497	1931	72693	72470	307	306	
36th "	...	237	976	730	4025	948	253	45505	1721	10500	1716	69753	69305	294	292	
37th "	...	238	1052	774	4254	971	214	44746	1741	11756	1826	70775	70340	297	296	
38th "	...	239	914	3672	790	4589	913	101	49665	1757	12584	1822	76807	76256	321	315
39th "	...	241	811	3694	827	4237	...	47909	1930	10427	1934	73011	72605	303	301	
40th "	...	236	906	783	4552	1160	...	47655	2097	10241	1935	73127	72864	310	309	
TOTALS	9626	36520	151629	12360	104365	31102	119246	1618576	73404	313376	35642	2496220	22555476	259	245	

* Borrowers can retain Musical Works two weeks.

+ Since January, 1894, the time allowed for reading Theological and Philosophical Works

has been extended from one to two weeks.

a Since January, 1894, the time allowed for reading Scientific Works has been extended from one to two weeks.

b Since November, 1897, the time allowed for reading books in all classes, *excepting G and J*, has been extended to two weeks.

TABLE VI.

SHOWING THE NUMBER AND CLASSIFICATION OF VOLUMES CONSULTED
IN THE REFERENCE DEPARTMENT SINCE OPENING.

TABLE.	Days open.	A	B	C	D	E	F	No. of Consul- tations.	No. of Readers
1st Report, 1874	56	68	113	3	108	88	...	380	...
2nd " 1875-6	258	84	112	14	179	223	...	612	...
3rd " 1876-7	254	59	240	1	291	364	...	955	419
4th " 1877-8	256	69	395	20	276	379	...	1139	542
5th " 1878-9	256	121	326	6	340	718	...	1511	566
6th " 1879-80	252	215	308	3	332	881	...	1739	557
7th " 1880-1	210	239	224	1	222	419	...	1105	392
8th " 1881-2	257	315	243	9	230	389	...	1186	196
9th " 1882-3	253	209	190	3	147	275	...	824	161
10th { Mar 27 to Sep 30 '83	132	82	104	3	108	172	...	469	...
Rept. { Oct 1 '83--Sep 30 '84	256	265	171	7	163	307	...	913	...
11th " 1884-5	229	279	116	5	219	333	...	952	191
12th " 1885-6	257	384	487	20	218	988	...	2097	242
13th " 1886-7	253	299	341	21	311	781	...	1753	246
14th " 1887-8	255	150	536	11	329	1617	...	2643	279
15th " 1888-9	241	170	532	19	696	1142	...	2559	244
16th " 1889-90	224	187	407	23	737	980	...	2334	162
17th " 1890-1	230	42	423	21	853	619	...	1958	359
18th " 1891-2	218	111	226	12	842	621	...	1812	128
19th " 1892-3	231	91	163	4	443	586	...	1287	127
20th " 1893-4	228	52	152	6	284	466	...	960	130
21st " 1894-5	238	21	107	2	185	299	...	614	109
22nd " 1895-6	257	101	64	0	178	192	...	535	88
23rd " 1896-7	241	101	74	6	124	143	...	448	99
24th " 1897-8	238	35	46	2	146	171	...	400	105
25th " 1898-9	242	47	48	0	94	249	...	438	99
26th " 1899-1900	239	15	108	13	164	196	...	496	190
27th " 1900-1	238	87	625	33	306	488	...	1539	586
28th " 1901-2	240	118	446	44	464	500	...	1572	779
29th " 1902-3	241	243	929	71	716	615	...	2574	1532
30th " 1903-4	240	175	614	44	546	533	70	1982	1088
31st " 1904-5	240	141	593	63	615	578	190	2180	1050
32nd " 1905-6	239	167	874	69	595	475	114	2294	1175
33rd " 1906-7	220	207	930	177	775	392	227	2708	1146
34th " 1907-8	242	254	1141	209	1081	1044	219	3948	1771
35th " 1908-9	237	236	883	213	1036	1097	210	3675	1589
36th " 1909-10	237	208	1026	175	1541	709	217	3876	1719
37th " 1910-11	238	220	981	213	1741	805	140	4100	2239
38th " 1911-12	234	243	1335	181	1352	631	198	3940	2262
39th " 1912-13	241	185	1143	167	1180	795	248	3718	1924
40th " 1913-14	236	199	1038	163	1217	1001	254	3872	2426
TOTALS	9584	6494	18814	2057	21384	23261	2087	74097	26917

READING ROOMS.

Open from 9 a.m. to 9-30 p.m. daily.

CENTRAL.

The average daily attendance of readers is estimated at 2,000.

461 volumes are accessible to the public for use in the Reading Room only.

BRANCH No. 1—KENRICK PARK.

A Reading and News Room was opened at 215, Spon Lane, on the 1st January, 1883.

This Reading Room was transferred to the New Buildings, Kenrick Park, on Monday, the 28th September, 1903.

300 volumes are accessible to the public for use in the Reading Room only.

BRANCH No. 2—HILL TOP.

A Reading and News Room was opened on Monday, January 15th, 1883, at the office originally occupied by Mr. F. W. Topham.

This Reading Room was transferred to the New Public Buildings, Hill Top, on Monday, the 20th June, 1898.

388 volumes are accessible to the public for use in the Reading Room only.

BRANCH No. 3—GREET'S GREEN.

The Reading and News Room, which was opened on Wednesday, the 17th January, 1883, at No. 1, Great Bridge, was removed to the entrance to the Recreation Ground, Greet's Green, and opened on Monday, 1st August, 1892.

223 volumes are accessible to the public for use in the Reading Room only.

BRANCH No. 4—CHURCHFIELD.

A Reading and News Room was opened at 56, Tenscore Street, on Monday, 4th March, 1907.

79 volumes are accessible to the public for use in the Reading Room only.

DONATIONS OF BOOKS, Etc.

Allen, Mrs. J., "The Epoch" Office, Ilfracombe—
Meditations.

Blades, Alderman J. H., J.P., Oakhurst, West Bromwich—
Alliance News (Weekly) to Greets Green Branch.

Bennett and Co., Chapel Works, Granville Street, Birmingham—
Business Directory, 1913-14.

Board of Trade, Commission for Labour, 44, Parliament Street,
London—
Reports as published.

British Museum Authorities—

Catalogue of British Species of Pisidium.

„ „ Cuneiform Tablets. Supplement.

„ „ Engraved British Portraits. Vol. IV.

„ „ Library. Vol. IV.

„ „ South Nigerian Plants.

„ „ Ungulates. Vol. I.

Special Guide. No. 6. Flight Exhibition.

Wall Decorations of Egyptian Tombs.

Co-operative Wholesale Society, Ltd., 1, Balloon Street, Man-
chester—
Story of C.W.S.

Crisp, Mr., G.W.R. Stationmaster, West Bromwich—
Holiday Haunts, 1914.

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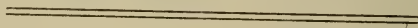
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FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

April 1st, 1913, to

March 31st, 1914.



SUMMARY OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	INCOME.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Amount of Rate Aid	889	0	7			
Central Library	136	9	6			
Spon Lane Branch	1	1	2			
Hill Top Branch	15	2				
Greets Green Branch	19	7				
Churchfields Branch	8	14	2			
						1037	0	2

Total Income for Year 1913-14 ...

 £1037 0 2

from 1st April, 1913, to 31st March, 1914.

EXPENDITURE.				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Central Library	...	...	...	784	15	1			
Spon Lane Branch	...	...	...	48	3	7			
Hill Top Branch	...	...	...	12	5	1			
Greets Green Branch	...	...	...	49	6	11			
Churchfields Branch	...	...	...	45	4	7			
Total Expenditure for Year 1913-14				<hr/>			939	15	3
Income in excess of Expenditure				...			97	4	11

£1037 0 2

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS from

RECEIPTS.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
BOROUGH RATE—						
Amount of Rate Aid						
for the year, being						
equivalent to the						
product of a rate of						
one penny in the £				889	0	7

CENTRAL LIBRARY—

Fines, etc.	...	68	8	6		
Hire of Lecture Room	68	1	0			
				136	9	6

BRANCH READING ROOMS—

Spon Lane: Sale of						
Papers ...	...	1	1	2		
Hill Top, Sale of Papers	15	2				
Greets Green „	19	7				

£ s. d.

Churchfields:

Sale of Papers	18	2				
Rent	7	16	0			
				8	14	2
				11	10	1

£1037 0 2

Particulars.	General.
	£ s. d.
Salaries and Wages of Staff	215 0 0
Books ...	...
Bookbinding ...	...
Newspapers and Periodicals ...	...
Printing, Stationery and Advertising ...	...
Repairs to Buildings ...	...
Electric Light...	...
Rent, Fuel, Light and Water ...	...
Insurances ...	...
Rates ...	...
Income Tax (Schedule A) ...	...
Uniforms ...	...
Subscriptions to various Societies	...
Miscellaneous Expenses ...	...
	215 0 0
Income in excess of Expenditure	...
	215 0 0

1st April, 1913, to 31st March, 1914.

PAYMENTS.

Central Library.	BRANCH READING ROOMS.				Total.
	Spon Lane.	Hill Top.	Greets Green.	Churchfields	
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
162 5 0	...	...	...	...	377 5 0
80 18 5	...	...	...	...	80 18 5
40 9 1	...	...	...	...	40 9 1
56 1 6	13 3 7	12 5 1	14 6 11	9 17 7	105 14 8
53 10 11	...	...	...	...	53 10 11
9 8 2	...	...	...	...	9 8 2
24 6 10	...	...	...	...	24 6 10
62 11 4	35 0 0	...	35 0 0	35 7 0	167 18 4
4 12 3	...	...	...	...	4 12 3
8 13 4	...	...	...	...	8 13 4
14 11 8	...	...	...	...	14 11 8
3 10 0	...	...	...	...	3 10 0
6 7 6	...	...	...	...	6 7 6
42 9 1	...	...	...	...	42 9 1
569 15 1	48 3 7	12 5 1	49 6 11	45 4 7	939 15 3
...	...	...	...	...	97 4 11
569 15 1	48 3 7	12 5 1	49 6 11	45 4 7	1037 0 2

CAPITAL.

To RECEIPTS.

£ s. d.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY

ANDREW CARNEGIE, Esq., LL.D.—

Donation of full cost of building	New	Free	
Public Library ... ..	...	...	7714 16 3

REVENUE ACCOUNT—

Appropriation of accumulated surplus of Penny Rate to defray cost of furnishing and equipment of New Free	
Public Library	1200 0 0

 £8,914 16 3

SPECIAL BOOK

To RECEIPTS.

£ s. d.

Balance brought forward	20 8 10
--------------------------------	---------

 £20 8 10

ACCOUNT.

BY PAYMENTS.

£ s. d.

BUILDING ACCOUNT.

NEW FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1907.

Cost of Construction and Equipment	8914	16	3
------------------------------------	-----	-----	------	----	---

£8,914	16	3
--------	----	---

FUND ACCOUNT.

BY PAYMENTS.

£ s. d.

Cost of Books purchased during the year	10	0	0
BALANCE, 31st March, 1914—					
In hands of Treasurer	10	8 10

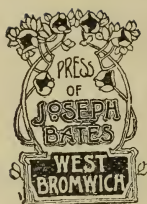
£20	8	10
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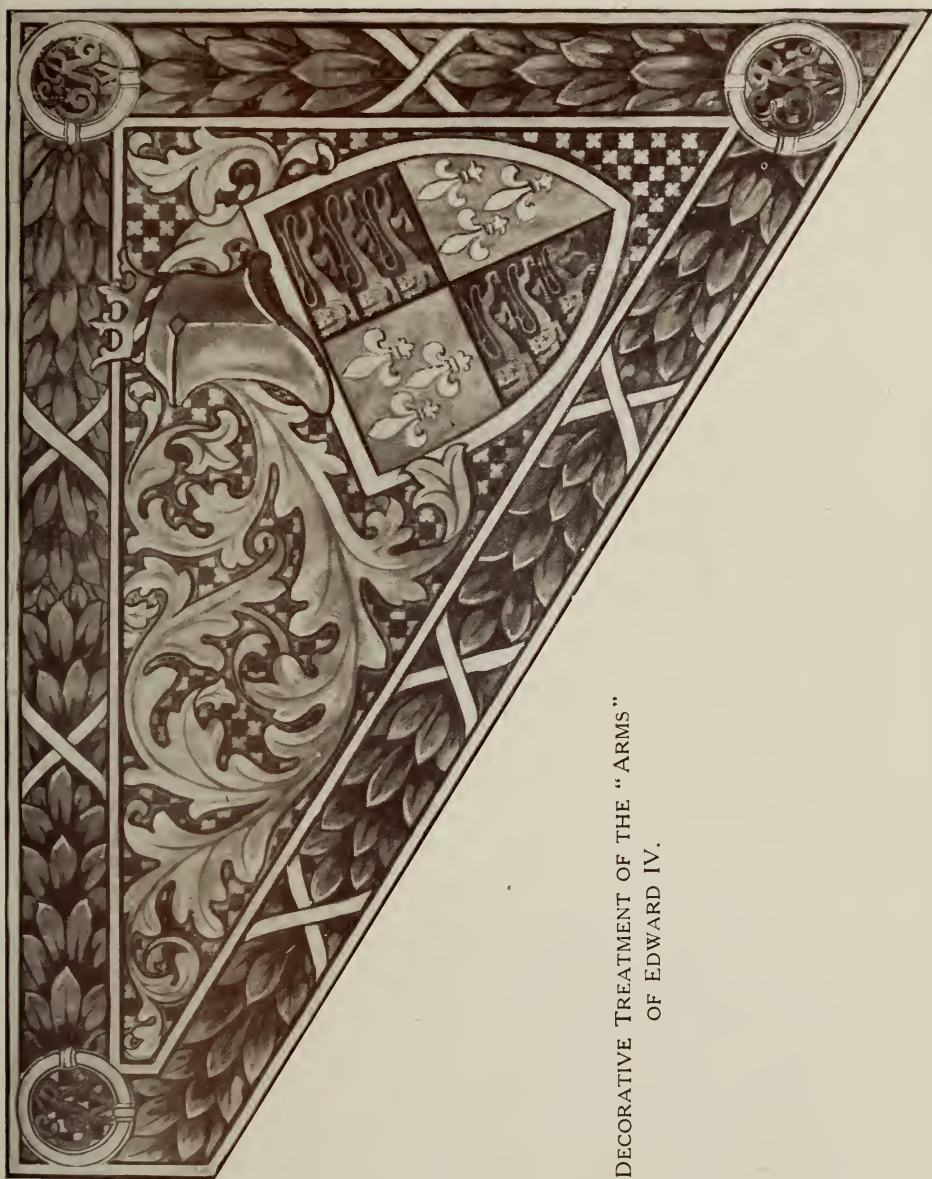
BALANCE SHEET—

LIABILITIES.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
CAPITAL ACCOUNT.									
TRUST ACCOUNT—									
Gift of Andrew Carnegie, Esq., LL.D., of full cost of construction of New Library ...				7714	16	3			
BALANCE, being Appropriation from Revenue Account to defray cost of furnishing and equipment of New Free Public Library ...				1200	0	0			
							8914	16	3
SPECIAL ACCOUNT.									
SPECIAL BOOK FUND ACCOUNT—									
Unexpended balance							10	8	10
REVENUE ACCOUNT.									
SUNDRY CREDITORS for balances due to them ...				96	14	4			
SURPLUS—									
Balance, 31st March, 1913 ...	206	7	2						
Add—Income in excess of Expenditure for year ended 31st March, 1914	97	4	11						
				303	12	1			
							400	6	5
H. KIRK, F.S.A.A., BOROUGH TREASURER.									
GUILDFORD O. HODGES, LIBRARIAN AND SECRETARY.									
							£	9325	11 6

31st March, 1914.

ASSETS.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
CAPITAL ACCOUNT.		
NEW FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDINGS—		
Complete cost of construction and equipment	8914 16 3	
		8914 16 3
SPECIAL ACCOUNT.		
SPECIAL BOOK FUND ACCOUNT—		
CASH in hands of Treasurer ... ..	...	10 8 10
REVENUE ACCOUNT.		
CASH in hands of Treasurer ... ..	...	400 6 5
Audited and found correct, GEO. T. COLEMAN, F.C.A., } CLEMENT KEYS, A.C.A., } Auditors.		
	£	9325 11 6





DECORATIVE TREATMENT OF THE "ARMS"
OF EDWARD IV.

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WEST BROMWICH
Public Libraries
Annual Report.
1913-14.





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